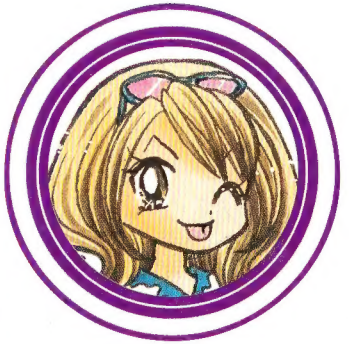
Mihona Fujii

*GALS! 9

cmx

*GALS!

Mihona Fujii



Fearless Kotobuki Ran strolls through the streets of trendy Shibuya with her Gal Pals on a quest for designer goods... at the same time dispensing her own brand of street justice!

Is law enforcement in Ran's future?!

Ran's father and teacher unite to trick her into taking the police entrance exam! Phase one of their master plan is successfully completed when they get a photo of Ran looking exactly like (gasp!) a prim and proper Japanese girl. But you can bet the rest of their conspiracy won't be so easy. Then, believe it or not, it's Christmas again—and why, oh why, is Ran's boyfriend Tatsukichi spending the holiday all alone?

The BEST-SELLING manga that inspired the hit anime SUPER-GALS!

T
TEEN
MILD VIOLENCE

Dear my friends, Gals is not my main project, however, this is a must read book. So, I scanned them without editing or cleaning. Don't blame me! 'cause I borrowed them from library. If you like, feel free to purchase or scan them yourself and share them.

Mắt Lưu Ly được rất nhiều người thuê, một phần có lẽ vẽ quần áo rất fashion, phần mấy cô nàng trong truyện quậy quá xá. Thấy có bảng tiếng Anh ra hết mà trên mạng hoài chưa đủ nên mình scan cho cả nhà coi cho đã (đi mượn nên scan thế này thôi nhé). Bảng tiếng Anh từ 1-6 trên mạng do nhóm khác scan đủ rồi, ai thích có thể ghé qua blog mình down về hoặc tự tìm lấy hen. (=^o^=)

http://lulumangashop.livejournal.com/

Please credit for LuLuManga as English scanlator

GALS!

Volume 9

By Mihona Fujii

GALS! Main Character Introduction

YAMAZAKI MIYU

Third-year student at Hounan High School. Used to be a wild child back in junior high school (see Volume One) before being reformed with the help of Ran's older brother, Yamato, who is now her fiancé. Good friends with Ran since junior high.

OTOHATA REI

Third-year student at Meisho Daiichi High School."High School Hunk Number One," according to a popular teen magazine.

KUROI TATSUKI

Also known as "Machida Blackwell" (derived from his hometown and family name in English) and Tatsukichi. Ran's boyfriend.

KOTOBUKI YAMATO

Ran's older brother. Police officer stationed at the police box in Shibuya.

KOTOBUKI SAYO

Ran's little sister. Hopes to be a police officer. With boyfriend Masato makes up the hyperactive team of the "Junior High Detectives!"

KOTOBUKI RAN

Third-year student at Hounan High School. Comes from a long line of police officers that continues to the present day, with both her parents and older brother (Yamato) being officers of the law and her younger sister (Sayo) planning to follow in the family's footsteps. Ran, however, is the ultimate Shibuya *Gogal* and she just wants to hang out in Shibuya and have fun, albeit with no money...

HOSHINO AYA

Third-year student at Hounan High School, enrolled in the academic track. Her once troubled past is now all behind her thanks to Ran's intervention. Currently dating Rei.

ASOU YUYA

Third-year student at Meisho Daiichi High School."High School Hunk Number Two," according to a popular teen magazine; known as "Number Two" to Ran and her friends.

HONDA MAMI

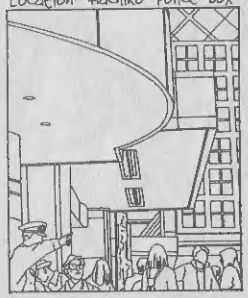
Ikebukuro *Gogal*. Rival/friend of Ran. Currently dating Yuya.

ギャルズ
GALS!
[9]
Episode 32:
Endless Summer and
Beach Umbrellas!!

WHAAAM
IT DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING IF YOU CLOWNS MENTION IT!!!
WHAT'D WE SAY?!
IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A COMPLIMENT!!
IT LOOKS AWESOME!!
AH! MAMI-CHAN, DID YOU CHANGE YOUR HAIR?
ABC MART
Marine
KA-CHING!
GRAB
HOT, HOT, HOT! MEGA-HOT! SUPER-NOVA-HOT! AND I'D SWEAR IT'S YOUR REAL HAIR!!!
ALL RIGHT, LET'S HAVE IT!! DOES MY HAIR LOOK HOT OR NOT?! BE HONEST!!!

HIGH SCHOOL FRESHMAN DETECTIVE

Location: Hachiko Police Box



SAYO'S NOTES ON FOLLOWING MIHONA-CHI!! PART ONE!

Freshman detective Sayo Kotobuki reporting to you on the scene! (peace in!) your charismatic cop is here today to follow Mihona-chi on her amblings through Shibuya! And my investigative skills are second to none! Hmph!! It seems that Mihona-chi always starts her research-gathering runs from the Hachiko exit at Shibuya station!!

She tries to take photos on the sly, without the Hachiko police noticing her! Maybe I'll tell my brother about this suspicious behavior!!...wha!! (CRASH)...don't underestimate me just because I fall down now and again...!!

GREETINGS

UWAAA!! #9 ALREADY?!

What happened?! Your faithful mangaka, Mihona Fujii, is shocked, dear readers!! I mean, volume eight just came out in January and here we are with number nine?!

With just one month between volumes, what will I have to talk about in the Free Talk sections?! Oh well, I'm still in a great mood, so I'm sure I can come up with something fun to go on about.

So I hope you stick with me for the whole ride. ♫LA LA LA LA♪ Whether you bought this volume or borrowed it, thank you for reading!

So now, sit back and enjoy Gals 9!! ☆

Mihona. F

GRRRRRR
LISTEN!!
FOR-GET IT!! IF KOTO-BUKI'S GOING, YOU ARE NOT!!
THAT WAS UNCALLED FOR! SHE JUST WANTED TO GO TO THE BEACH!
...SO LEAVE ME OUT OF IT!
...BUT IT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH ME...
...I GET THE RIVALRY THING BETWEEN YOU AND RAN, IKEBUKURO AND SHIBUYA...
NOTHING...
...TO DO WITH YOU?!?
RUMBLE
HA H?
THERE'S MURDER IN HER EYES!!

TI-LI-MO TI-LI-MO TI-LI-MO
PHEW
GOT OUTTA THAT ONE BY THE SKIN OF MY TEETH...!!
AND THE ONLY REASON I WANTED TO WAS SO YOU'D SAY MY HAIR LOOKED "CUTE!"
RIGHT?! I AGO-NIZED FOR HOURS OVER WHE-THER I SHOULD GET IT DONE!
SNATCH
AH?!
SHE'S INVITED US TO GO TO THE BEACH TO-MORROW!
AH! JUST A SEC-OND...
FLING
AAAHH!!
WHAT WAS THAT?!?
YUYA'S ON A DATE WITH ME RIGHT NOW!! SO BUTT OUT, DOOO GAL!!!
HELLO? RAN-CHAN?! EH?!
YOU'RE GOING TO OISO BEACH TOMOR-ROW?
GOOD CHOICE! NOT TOO MANY PEOPLE ARE IN THE KNOW ABOUT IT. HOLD ON, I'LL CHECK!

WHAT'S NEW WITH MIHONA ♥

Mihona-chi here with you.♡ Right now, it's the beginning of February...and it's ?-!-!-freezing!

Oh yeah, on February 2nd, my older brother (of "My Brother's Little Room" fame) got married!!! Congratulations to him!! ✿ The ceremony was held at a chapel, and when I looked at the two of them standing there, looking so happy, my eyes filled up with tears. ☆ My tear ducts were also given a workout when the minister spoke so eloquently up on stage! So moving!! To be honest, I'm a crybaby in general, so at my brother's wedding, I was set on MAX. (LOL) I was supercalifragilistically thrilled, though, when Tomo-chin, the bride, handed me the bridal bouquet!!! KyAAA! Ahhh...I don't think human beings are supposed to feel this happy.♡♡♡

(Okay, I think I'm crowing too much about it.)

IT HURTS.
YEAH, MAMI-RIN BLEW HER TOP, THEN STALKED OFF SOME-WHERE.
NO, I HAVE NO IDEA.
SPIN
SNATCH
HAH?!
YUYA! FINE IF YOU REALLY WANNA GO TO THE BEACH, WE'LL GO TO THE BEACH!
?!
?!
BUT KNOW THAT I'LL NEVER LOSE TO YOU, NOT AS LONG AS I'M THE QUEEN OF IKEBUKURO!!
WHY?!
?!?
WHY, YOU?!
YOU... PEA-BRAIN GAL!!

WHACK
SIMPLETON!!
YOW!
SHE REALLY HIT ME...!?
I'VE HAD IT UP TO HERE!! GO AHEAD! GO TO THE BEACH, GO TO SHIBUYA, GO TO THE MOON FOR ALL I CARE!!
MORON!!
THAT'S NOT LIKE YOU.
THROWING IN THE TOWEL? IN PUBLIC?
WHAT ELSE COULD I DO? HE USED TO BE MADLY IN LOVE WITH KOTOBUKI... EVEN NOW, THE SECOND MY BACK IS TURNED, HE SNEAKS OVER TO SHI-BUYA...
...HOW DO YOU THINK THAT REFLECTS ON ME, THE QUEEN OF IKE-BUKURO?
HARUE...
SHINE

I THOUGHT I'D BE NERVOUS ON MY FIRST DAY, BUT WITH ALL YOU GUYS THERE TOMORROW, IT SHOULD BE NO PROB!
MIYU, YOU STARTED LOOKING FOR A GIG WAY BEFORE WE DID, SO I GUESS THE EARLY BIRD GETS THE WORM.
... ALREADY HAVE MORE EMPLOYEES THAN THEY KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH!
AH, THAT'S OKAY! I WANTED TO WORK AT THE BEACH THIS SUMMER, BUT IT'S LIKE ALL THE BEACH HOUSES THIS YEAR ...

ALL RIGHT, MIYU. I KNOW YOU'RE HOLDING OUT ON US ABOUT SOMETHING.
FLAP FLAP FLAP FLAP
.....

OKAY. I'LL TELL YOU.
I CAN SEE RIGHT THROUGH YOU!! SO TALK OR BE SUBJECT TO CRUSHED ICE BARRAGE TORTURE !!!
FLAP FLAP FLAP
EH? NO, W-WHY WOULD YOU SAY THAT ...?!
AWPII cc
NO! ANY-THING BUT THAT!

HEH!! I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT SHE'S GOIN' ON ABOUT, BUT TELL HER THE LOSER BUYS SNOW CONES!
FLAP FLAP FLAP FLAP
UH...OKAY. I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT'S ABOUT EITHER, BUT I'LL TELL HER...
SEE YOU TOMOR-ROW!
FLAP FLAP FLAP FLAP FLAP
AAAAH! HOT-HOT-HOT-HOT!! I WANT ICE CREAM !!!
I JUST FEEL BAD ... ...THE BEACH UMBRELLA RENTAL SHOP IN O!SO ONLY NEEDED ONE PART-TIMER!
NUMBER TWO AND MAMI-RIN ARE COMIN' TOMORROW, TOO!

ACTUALLY ...I'M THREE MONTHS BEHIND IN MY RENT...
...AND THE LAND-LORD IS TELLING ME TO GET OUT.
...I'VE BEEN PAYING A LITTLE AT A TIME WITH WHAT I'VE SAVED UP FROM MY PART-TIME JOBS...
...BUT A TWO-BEDROOM PLACE IS PRETTY EXPENSIVE, SO I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO CATCH UP.
ARE YOU SE-RIOUS?!
ISN'T YOUR MOM PAYING ...?
SHE'S TOTALLY UNRELI-ABLE... I DON'T KNOW IF SHE'S FOR-GOTTEN OR IS JUST... ...IGNOR-ING IT...
SO THAT'S WHY YOU'VE ONLY BEEN LOOKING FOR JOBS WHERE YOU GET PAID BY THE DAY.
HAVE YOU TOLD MY BROTHER WHAT'S GOING ON?
NO... I-I CAN'T!
I ALREADY TOLD HIM I WAS THINKING ABOUT GOING TO JUNIOR COLLEGE...I DON'T WANT TO BURDEN HIM WITH ANYTHING ELSE!
SO PLEASE ...DON'T TELL YA-MATO-KUN ABOUT IT YET.
ALL RIGHT, I WON'T. BUT I'M NOT HAPPY ABOUT IT.
...I DON'T WANT TO CALL FOR HELP UNTIL I ABSO-LUTELY NEED TO.
I KNOW... I KNOW, BUT...
... HOW BIG THE PROBLEM, YOU ALWAYS TRY TO TAKE IT ON ALL BY YOUR-SELF!
THAT KINDA THINK-IN'S YOUR BAD HABIT! NO MATTER ...
OH, COME OFF IT! WHAT'S THE POINT OF BEING WITH MY BROTHER IF YOU CAN'T TELL HIM EVERYTHING?! OR DO YOU THINK HE'S SO SMALL-MINDED HE CAN'T HANDLE SOME BAD NEWS?!
...I COULD SOME-HOW GET THROUGH THIS MYSELF!
THAT'S NOT IT AT ALL! I JUST THOUGHT ...

I can't believe how much personal stuff I write in these columns. Ah, well. I guess it's okay. Anyway, at the wedding reception, I danced to a long number, Kotoshi. At the time, I was really glad I'd had some experience with Japanese dance (LOL). I wish my brother and his wife the best and hope they'll be happy together forever! Ah!! Amongst all my fan mail, there have been a lot of letters addressed to my brother, congratulating him on his nuptials! So super duper thanks to those of you who were above and beyond thoughtful to do that. Of course, I've passed all of those missives on to him.

Finally, finally went and bought playstation 2!!. Banzai!. Eh? I bought it too late, you say? I was waiting all this time for the price to go down so..

→ NEXT

I-I DON'T KNOW IF THE WORDS WOULD MAKE IT OUT OF MY MOUTH!
DON'T BE DUMB! YOU'RE JUST ASKIN' THE GUY TO GO TO THE BEACH!
BUT WHAT IF HE SAYS NO? BESIDES...
I NEED TIME TO MENTALLY PREPARE MYSELF BEFORE ASK HIM!
AH! THERE HE GOES!!
THEN YOU BETTER GET YOUR SCUZZY BUTT OVER THERE!!
GO, GAL!!
O-
OTO-HATA-KUN!
YO.
UM... ARE YOU BUSY THIS SUMMER VACATION?

AS LONG AS YOU DON'T OVERDO IT! I DON'T WANNA SEE YOU COLLAPSE FROM EXHAUSTION!
WE'LL HELP YOU AS MUCH AS WE CAN, TOO, OKAY?
RAN... AYA...
EH?
AYA! I JUST SPOTTED OTOHATA!
OKAY! THANKS!
INVITE HIM FOR TOMORROW!!
HEY!

BUT HOW DID YOU KNOW I WAS GOING TO ASK YOU ABOUT TOMORROW, OTOHATA-KUN? THAT WAS LIKE E.S.P.!
THE BEACH?
OISO... KIND OF FAR...
THAT'S RIGHT!! AT OISO!*
I'LL MAKE LUNCH!
I OVER-HEARD YOU.
WHENEVER YOU GET WOUND UP, YOUR VOICE BECOMES LOUDER...
...SO IT WAS EASY TO PICK OUT OF THE CROWD.
BUSH
.....
...SO SEE YOU THEN.
ANYWAY I GUESS I'LL BE THERE TOMOR-ROW...
*OISO PUBLIC BEACH, WEST OF TOKYO

EHH, SO-SO.
I'VE BEEN HOME TUTORING RECENTLY.
H-HOME TUTOR-RING?!
YOU MEAN GOING TO A TEENAGE GIRL'S HOUSE!!
YOU'RE LETTING YOUR IMAGI-NATION GET AWAY FROM YOU.
I'VE JUST GOT ONE STUDENT, A KID IN MY NEIGH-BORHOOD.
JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL BOY. GOT THAT? A BOY.
OH. I WAS SCARED A SECOND THERE
I THOUGHT, IF IT IS A GIRL, I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'D...
I DON'T HAVE ANY SPECIAL PLANS FOR TOMORROW, THOUGH!
R-REALLY?!
GASP!!
NO, NO, NO, NO, NO!
THIS ISN'T WHAT I WANTED TO TALK TO HIM ABOUT!!

POP
YOU'RE JUST LIKE TWO SHIPS THAT PASS EACH OTHER BY!
...BUT I'M STARTING TO THINK HE'S JUST TWO-TIMING ME!!
HE CLAIMS TO BE BUSY WORKING AT HIS PART-TIME JOB...
WAA!!

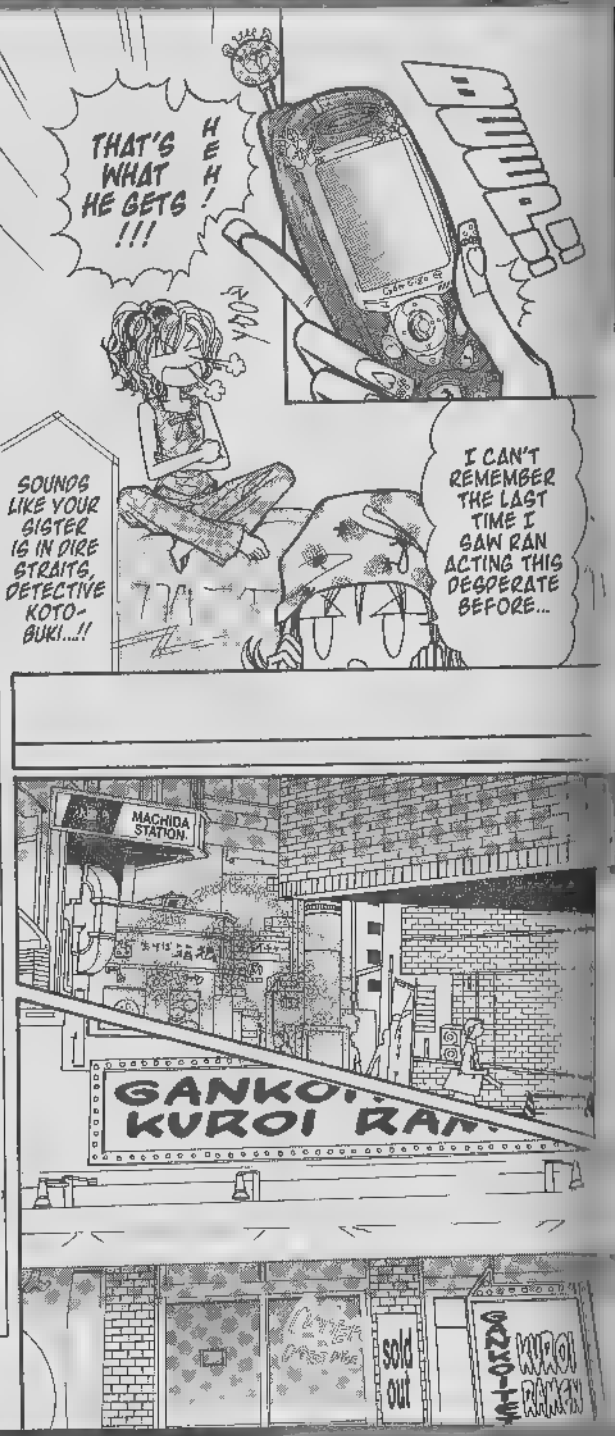
FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN I THINK OF MASATO AND GET THIS WARM, FUZZY FEELING IN MY CHEST...
THAT'S A SIGN OF DANGER! TRUE COUPLES HAVE THIS "BEE-BEE-BEE"♪ THING GOIN' ON!
SAYO!! WHAT DO YOU WANT?!
HAH? "BEE-BEE-BEE?!"
TITI RORI RORIRI RIRI

YEP. GOOD FOR ME...
GYA HA HA!! BE HAPPY!! BE HAPPY!!
...AM I SUPPOSED TO BE HAPPY? OR CRY?
HE OVERHEARD ME...
GOOD FOR YOU, AYA!
LAUGHING CRYING YOU GET TO HAVE YOUR CAKE AND EAT IT TOO!
THESE ARE TEARS OF HAPPINESS!
YOU'RE CRYING AFTER ALL
HEY!
THAT JERK, TATSUKICHI! HE'S STILL NOT PICKING UP HIS PHONE!
1:00
Handset 4
Menu
HOLD

...the first game I wanted to pick up was Final Fantasy. Of course, right?! So I went to a shop in my neighborhood...but they were sold out UGH! For some reason, Mommy wanted to get Seaman first and she succeeded but I can't play it with her! Sorry, Mom! See, I really, really can't stand bugs or even things that remind me of them. Luckily, though, my friend was nice enough to buy me Toro and the Day Off!" ♡ Now there's a game I can play without worry ♫ My friend also landed me a copy of Final Fantasy, so KyAAA! ♫ The only problem is I have zero time to play it right! One of these days, though, I'll declare as Game Day, and play all day long! I'll try, anyway!!

It's amazing, though, even being able to play DVDs on it it boggles my analog mind

And speaking of games, there's this new one out for GameBoy, called SuperGALS! Ran Kotobuki 2: Miracle Getting Hohohey... finished the game in one day! ♡ Even so, there are some hard parts in there, so don't go thinkin' the game's a pushover. The challenge is to keep from getting the same items over and over again


THAT'S WHAT HE GETS!!!
HEH!
BWOOP
I CAN'T REMEMBER THE LAST TIME I SAW RAN ACTING THIS DESPERATE BEFORE...
SOUNDS LIKE YOUR SISTER IS IN DIRE STRAITS, DETECTIVE KOTOBUKI...!!
MACHIDA STATION
GANKO KUROI RAN
sold out
KUROI RAMEN

SILENCE
HMMMM
"BEE-BEE-BEE" EH...?
NNNGGHH...!!
August 3rd (Friday)
1:15
Handset 4
Menu
HOLD
Cyber Gige
SEE WHAT I MEAN?
AH, SAYO-PE? NOTHIN'S GOING ON. SUDDENLY, I JUST WANTED TO HEAR YOUR VOICE..
GULP!!
IT'S ACTU-ALLY KINDA CREEPY!!!
IS THAT FOR REAL?!
AH, TATSU-KICHI?! TOMORROW, I'M GOING TO THE BEACH! YEAH! AND MAYBE I'LL BE ON THE LOOK-OUT FOR SOME HOT GUYS!!
THIS IS A TELE-PHONE AN-SWERING SER-VICE
PLEASE LEAVE YOUR MES-SAGE AFTER THE BEEP
BEEP
THIS IS REALLY STARTIN' TO TICK ME OFF!!
BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP
IT'S NOT RING-ING
!!!

OH MY GOD !!!!
GONG...
THE SEA OF JAPAN?! THE PACIFIC OCEAN?! THE MEDI-TERRANEAN?! THE BLACK SEA?!
FRET FRET FRET FRET FRET FRET
SUNG OUT
THE BEACH?! WHICH BEACH?! WHICH OCEAN?!
ZOOOM
PUT THE PEDAL TO THE METAL AND...LET'S GO!!!
GET BACK HERE, TATSUKI!!! THAT BIKE'S TO BE USED FOR DELIVERIES ONLY!!
I'LL START BY CHECKING OUT THE BEACH CLOSEST TO HERE !!
NO TIME TO WORRY ABOUT DETAILS !
IF I LEAVE NOW, I CAN STILL CATCH HER!!
CLANK

THUK
YEOW!
I WANT THOSE DISHES CLEAN! TREAT 'EM WITH RESPECT !!
HEY, GOOD-FOR-NOTH-ING!
SAYS THE MAN WHO TOSSES 'EM AT MY HEAD!!
CLATTER CLATTER CLATTER CLATTER
WHAT ABOUT MY SUMMER VACA-TION ?!
"ECO-NOMIC SLUMP!" "CAN'T AFFORD TO HIRE PEOPLE!" AND THAT GIVES HIM A LICENSE TO TREAT ME LIKE A SLAVE ?!
AH, TATSU-KICHI?! TOMOR-ROW, I'M GOING TO THE BEACH! YEAH!
AND MAYBE I'LL BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR SOME HOT GUYS!!
LINK
HEY, SHE SENT ME A MES-SAGE ♡
WONDER IF RAN-PYON'S SLEEP-ING?
AH! FINALLY FIN-ISHED!

FWD
FWD
YOU GUYS REALLY DON'T HAVE TO HELP ME THIS MUCH...
YOU GOT IT! ONE HOUR'S 300 YEN!!
ME, TOO!
OVER HERE! I'LL TAKE AN UMBRELLA!
IT'S OKAY! LATER, IF YOU'VE GOT FREE TIME, WE CAN ALL DO SOMETHING TOGETHER!
WHAT, ARE YOU WORKING HERE, TOO?
NO, JUST GIVING MIYU A HAND.
AH! WAIT RIGHT HERE!
HEYA, AYA-CHAN!
COMING RIGHT UP!
I'LL TAKE ONE.
YEP! IT'S BEEN 6 YEARS.
THUMP
AH! OTO-HATA-KUN!!

Oiso Beach
Oiso
TWINKLE
TWINKLE
...ENDLESS SUMMER BEACH UMBRELLA GALS!
WE'RE THE...

ILUMO ILUMO ILUMO ILUMO
FOR MOI, THE SECOND I PICK UP A PARASOL, EVERYBODY MISTAKES ME FOR A QUEEN!
FOR A SEX APPEAL-LESS WENCH LIKE YOU, THE ONLY THING A BEACH UMBRELLA'S GOOD FOR IS COVERING YOURSELF UP!
KYAAAAAH!
AIEEE!
OWCH
WHAA?!
WHUMP
HA!
"ENDLESS SUMMER BEACH UMBRELLA GIRLS!" DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH!
GRRR!!
SO YOU MADE GOOD ON YOUR THREAT TO SHOW UP, EH, MAMI HONDA?!?
I'M TRYIN' TO WORK HERE, SO WHY DON'TCHA BURY YOURSELVES IN THE SAND?!
YOU'LL PAY FOR THAT!
WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING, RAG?!
HA HA HA HA HA
GUESS SUMMER WOULDN'T BE SUMMER WITHOUT T
THEY'RE AT IT AGAIN

AH... THANKS...
HEAVY SULKER. WHAT'D SHE MAKE A FOUR COURSE MEAL...?
...BUT IF THAT'S OKAY...
...AS PROMISED! MY OPTIONS WERE LIMITED BECAUSE I COULDN'T MAKE ANYTHING THAT'D SPOIL IN THE SUN..
JUNCR...
OKAY, SEE YOU LATER!
GOOD LUCK!
BEACH HOUSE
WE'LL BE AROUND...
FIGHT!
SO I'VE GOTTA DO MY BEST, TOO!
GOTCHA? JUST A SEC!
I'LL HAVE TWO UMBRELLAS!
YEAH. DIDN'T YOU ASK YAMATO-SAN?
SEE? NOW AREN'T YOU GLAD YOU INVITED OTOHATA-KUN?
NOPE. HE'S BEEN SWAMPED AT WORK.

I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU'VE BEEN HONDA'S BOY-FRIEND ALL THIS TIME.
DON'T KNOW IF I SHOULD ADMIRE YOU OR FEEL SORRY FOR YOU...
YEAH... MAMI COMES ON STRONG AND SHE'S SOKUBAKKI" ...BUT I'VE... ...PRETTY MUCH GOTTEN USED TO IT.
ON THE OTHER HAND, SHE SPENDS A LOT OF TIME THINKING ABOUT STUFF...LITTLE STUFF, LIKE WHETHER I'D LIKE IT IF SHE CHANGED HER HAIRSTYLE A CERTAIN WAY...
YEAH, SHE'S GOT HER CUTE POINTS.
I SEE... GOTTEN "USED TO" HER, HUH?
AH YOU CARRY IT BY YOUR SELF?
YEAH, I CAN DO IT!
...PUT THAT WAY, I THINK I CAN GET IT.

BUZZ FFFFFFF
DOUBLE SAND FLINGING REVENGE !!!
BLECH!
PTI-I-I
FWISH FWISH FWISH
SECRET WEAPON: SAND FLINGING GAL !!!
(NO MEANING)
YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO COPY THIS!!
SNATCH
OKAY, NOW YOU MADE ME MAD!!
GYA, PIOO PIOO PIOO PIOO PIOO
WARMERN HEED OMAR-MENT!!!
(WATERMELON SEED BOMBARDMENT)
WHO'D WANNA COPY THAT?!
SIGHHH... I DON'T KNOW WHY THEY END UP FIGHTING EVERY TIME THEY CROSS PATHS.
MOUYGH MOUYGH
HEEKRE AHACK!!!
(BEAST ATTACK)
GULP GULP
SWRRRP!
Y-YOU WOULON'T...!!

I CARE
I REALLY LOVE YOU, YUYA!!
DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND THAT?!
THUMP
AAAH... IT FIZZLED OUT.
GYAA!
HERE.
AND THAT'S WHY I HAVE TO TAKE KOTOBUKI DOWN!!
Y-YEAH. SUPPOSE..
ALTHOUGH IT FEELS LIKE THE FIRST TIME SHE'S SAID IT IN SO MANY WORDS...
THUMP THUMP
AS USUAL, YOU'RE NOT MAKING SENSE!!
THE THREE OF THEM MUST BE DENSE AS DIAMONDS..

BEACH HOUSE
GOOD JOB, MIYU!
THOSE SPARKLERS ARE BEAUTIFUL! LET ME HAVE ONE!
SURE, WE'VE GOT A LOT LEFT!!
WONDER HOW LONG THEY'RE GONNA GO AT IT...
GYAA! GYAA! GYAA!
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT...
ME? WHY ME...?
GYAA
ME!! ME!!
SO WHO WON IN THE END?
OH, MAMIRIN. WHO REALLY CARES WHO WON?
MY FIRST DAY ON THE JOB ENDS UNEVENTFULLY!

WHEN'S YOUR NEXT DAY OFF, YAMATO-KUN...?
ME? SURE, I'M FINE. I WORK AGAIN THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW!
YEAH I WAS A HIT ..
...WITH THE CUSTOMERS. EVEN THE MANAGER COMPLIMENTED ME!
SAILING, EXCEPT FOR WHEN RAN GOT CAUGHT UP IN HER USUAL BATTLE WITH MAMI AND HARUE.
SORRY.
I'LL HAVE TO CALL YOU BACK LATER ...!

STANDBY!!!
JUST... SOME-HOW, LET THIS TIME, NOW, GO BY SLOWLY ...
GOD OF LOVE ...I'LL NEVER ASK YOU FOR ANYTHING AGAIN...
WHUMP
IT'S SO PRETTY...
pop pop pop
EH? LAUNCH-ING?!
SPAK SPAK SPAK
LAUNCHING!!!
Mean-while, at far-away Kuju-kuri Beach ...
RAN-PYON, WHERE ARE YOU?!
STOP LOOK-ING FOR HOT GUYS!!!
CRASH
POUF
SPRAK
BOOM
CRACKLE
GOD OF LOVE, YOU'RE TOYING WITH ME, AREN'T YOU?!
KYAAA! BEAU-TIFUL!
LOOKIT THE LITTLE PARA-CHUTE!!

BUT WHEN YOU FINALLY SHOW UP AFTER MONTHS, IT'S TO TELL ME YOU'RE NEVER COMING BACK AGAIN?!
ALL THIS TIME I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU TO COME HOME!!
WAITING TO TELL YOU ALL THESE THINGS THAT ARE GOING ON IN MY LIFE...
IF A CAT THAT GETS TOSSED OUT CRIES PATHETICALLY AND PUTS ON THE CHARM, SOMEBODY'S GONNA PICK IT UP
THAT'S HOW I'VE LIVED MY LIFE.
BUT IF THE CAT JUST SITS AROUND WAITING FOR ITS MOTHER? IT'S GONNA STARVE TO DEATH
DON'T PLAY THE BABY WITH ME, KIDDO.
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO FROM NOW ON..?
WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE, I WAS WORKIN' MY BUTT OFF!
AND MY MOM KICKED ME OUT OF THE HOUSE LONG BEFORE THAT.
A CAT THAT GETS TOSSED OUT...?
I HAVE NOTHING TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT.
YOU AND I HAVE DIFFERENT LIVES, SO GO AHEAD AND LIVE YOURS HOWEVER YOU WANT.

BANG
KLANG
KLANG
HUFF
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
THAT'S NOT WHAT I ASKED YOU!
SHE ACTUALLY TRACKED ME DOWN...
BY THE WAY, I TOOK CARE OF THE BACK RENT BY LETTING THE LANDLORD KEEP THE ORIGINAL DEPOSIT. PERSISTENT HAG.
WHEN I PACK THINGS UP LIKE THIS, IT BECOMES CLEAR JUST HOW LITTLE I HAVE... ALMOST NOTHING
WHAT'S IT LOOK LIKE?

MIYU!
:YU!
YAMATO:KUN?
MIYU, ARE YOU OKAY?! YOU DIDN'T SOUND RIGHT ...
... ON THE PHONE... I WAS WORRIED, SO I THOUGHT I'D CHECK IN ON YOU...
I'M LEAVING THE EXTRA KEY HERE.
WAIT...
...MOM, WAIT!!
DON'T--!!
HAVE A NICE LIFE.
BYE-BYE.
...THE ONE PLACE I CAN GO HOME TO!!!
DON'T TAKE AWAY ...

YAMATO-KUN!
YAMATO-KUN...
I DON'T HAVE A PLACE TO GO HOME TO...
I DON'T HAVE A PLACE TO GO ...!!
OPEN YOUR EYES, MIYU.
YOU'VE GOT A PLACE RIGHT HERE.
HERE...?
THAT'S RIGHT. RIGHT HERE, IN MY ARMS.
YAMATO-KUN...
...I...I...
I'VE ALREADY HEARD MOST OF IT...
...YOU DID YOUR BEST TO TRY AND GET YOURSELF OUT OF A FIX, RIGHT?
AND I'M PROUD OF THAT...I'M PROUD OF YOUR STRENGTH.
BUT...
...IT'S HARD ON ME WHEN YOU'RE SUFFERING AND I KNOW NOTHING ABOUT IT.
YA-MATO-KUN...
I TOLD YOU BEFORE, DIDN'T I? YOU'RE NOT ALONE.
I LIVE FOR YOU...
...SO LEAN ON ME MORE.

YOU CALL THIS "LITTLE ?!?"
A LITTLE FAVOR ?!
GONG!
LOOKS LIKE WE'RE GONNA BE ROOMIES AGAIN. ♪
RIGHT ?!
BESIDES, YOU GUYS ARE SO CLOSE, I KNEW YOU WOULDN'T MIND!
IT'S NOT GONNA BE FOR LONG!
Miyuki's accessories
shoes
ON SECOND THOUGHT, I'M GONNA COLLECT HER RENT FROM YAMATO!
WOSLAM
YOW!
SEE YOU LATER I'M OFF TO MY PART-TIME JOB. ♡
THIS COULD WORK OUT AFTER ALL. ♪
OH, WELL... SHE CAN DO THE LAUNDRY, CLEAN... BAKE...
Episode 32: The End

OKAY... THIS APARTMENT IS TOO BIG FOR ME ANYWAY...
IT'S TIME TO TAKE A NEW STEP.
LET'S GET YOU OUT OF HERE.
BUT WHAT ABOUT TILL THEN...? MY LANDLORD WANTS ME OUT ASAP...
DURING SUMMER VACATION.
WE'LL TRY TO FIND AN APARTMENT AS CLOSE TO MY HOUSE AS POSSIBLE... AND ONE YOU CAN MOVE TO...
...IS HERE.
I LOVE YOU.
MY PLACE...
ME, TOO ...!
ROOM
...IS ASK RAN FOR A LITTLE FAVOR.
ALL WE HAVE TO DO...

Episode 33: Gals' Final Battle with Portable Shrines?!

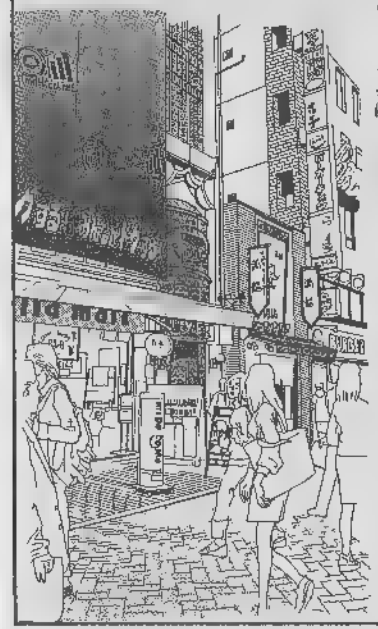
♪Dancing Gal Festival!!

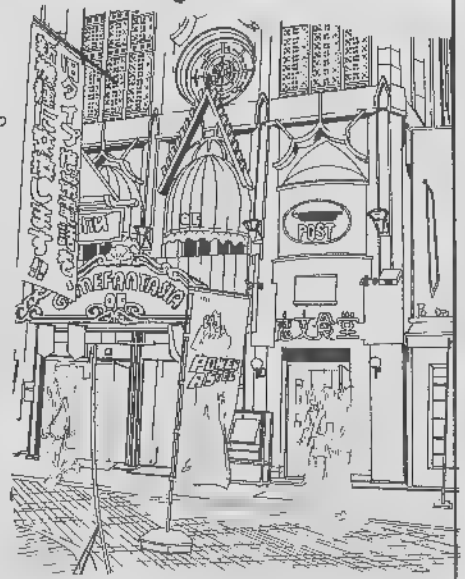
GALS! SETTING RESEARCH MATERIALS ♡ PART ONE ♡

GALS! RESEARCH MATERIALS SETTING ♡ PART TWO ♡

This is the former Love Letter Cafe and its environs. The cafe looks like it's connected to the building next to it.

WHOAAA, do I feel a wave of nostalgia! I think this is the way it was when volumes one and two of GALs came out. I remember at the time, white cell phones were all the rage among GALs. Ahhh, nostalgia...



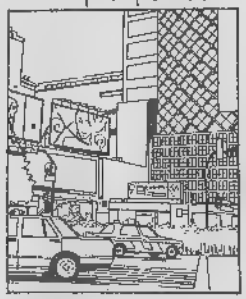


This is the same place, only more recently. It's changed a lot, right? It may be hard to tell because the angle is different but it's like the whole block was hit by a wave of change. What kind of change? Well, now, it's like Shibuya Center is flooded with cell phone shops. In fact, I got my latest cell phone there. But that's already changing, too, with many of those shops moving to different locations. Everything in Shibuya happens fast. Anyway, that's why I have to do so much research, just to keep up with (and redraw) all the ch-ch-changes.

GAL GAL GAL GAL
RAN!
UNNNHH... MACK... SMACK... TAKO-YAKI*...
* BALLS OF WHEAT FLOUR BATTER, COOKED WITH PIECES OF OCTOPUS
COME ON! YOU DON'T WANT TO BE LATE FOR THE FIRST DAY OF THE NEW TERM, DO YOU?!

HIGH SCHOOL TOKYO-WOMAN DETECTIVE

Location: Crossing in front of the station

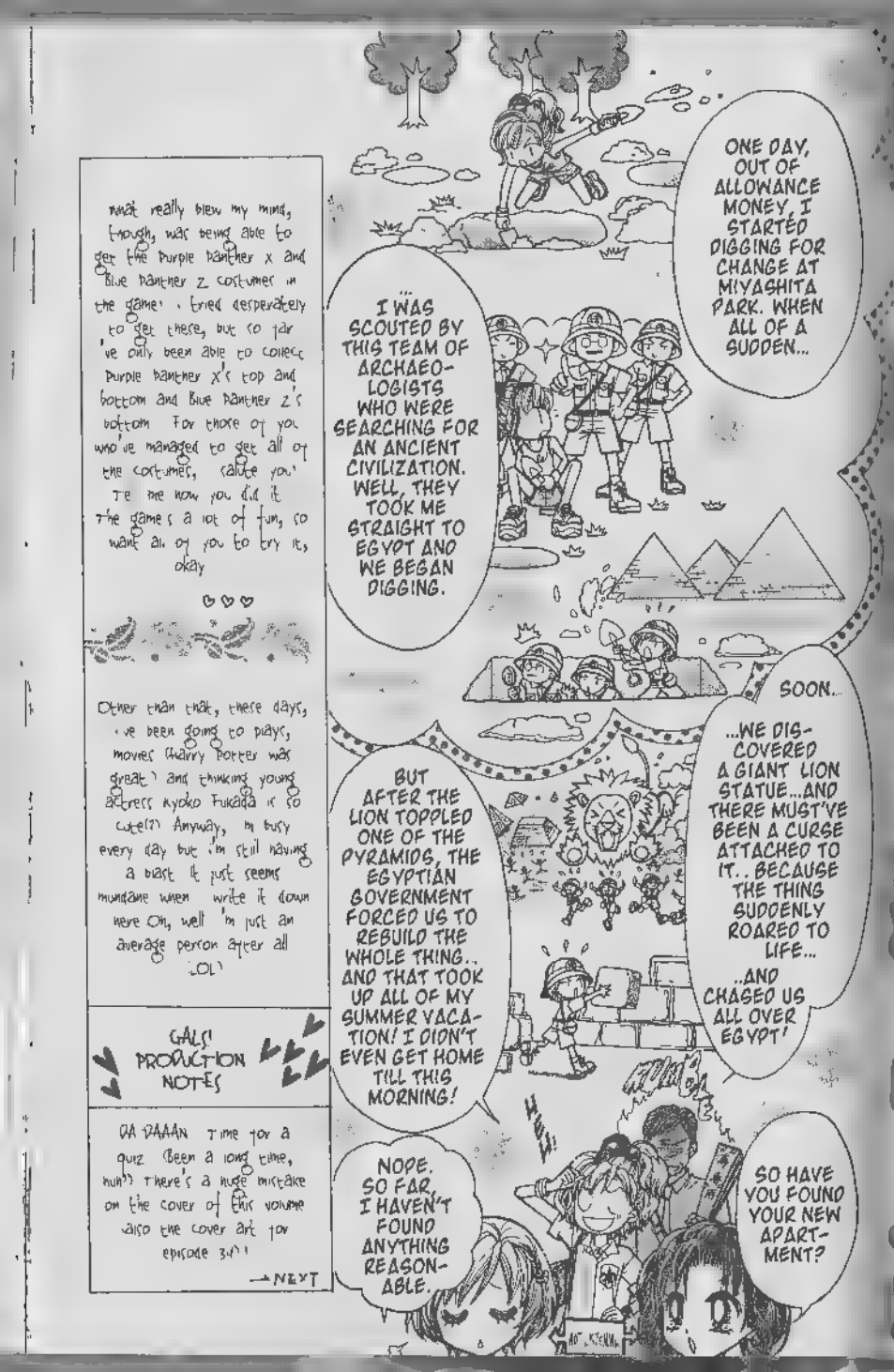


SAYO'S NOTES ON FOLLOWING MIHONA-CHI!! PART TWO!

Mm?! Now she's stopped in the middle of the pedestrian crossing?! Hah?! Now she's squatting down? Doesn't she care what the crowd walking around her will think? She looks like a juvenile delinquent doing that. Oh, she's taking pictures of the Marui fashion department store from there. But still, she's in people's way!! I'd better give her a warning.

Move it, lady! Ah! The light's just changed to yellow. As a detective, I know better than anyone that you never cross on yellow!! Ah, but there she goes. She's gone. Hmmm...suspicious. This is getting more and more suspicious!!!

AH! YOU DON'T HAVE TO IRON MY UNIFORM. I CAN DO IT MYSELF.
...SO JUST SIT AND ENJOY YOUR COFFEE.
IT'S ALL RIGHT! YOU CAME HOME LATE FROM WORK LAST NIGHT...
GOOD MORNING, YAMATO-KUN. DON'T FORGET TO TAKE YOUR LUNCH.
FRIED CHICKEN! FRIED CHICK-EN!
MORNING, MIYU!
I'M OFF TOMORROW AFTERNOON, SO I WAS THINKING WE COULD CHECK AROUND SOME REAL-ESTATE AGENCIES
SURE.
I'D BETTER FIND A GOOD APARTMENT SOON.
AHHH, HAPPINESS..
WAKING MY SISTER UP WHEN SHE'S DREAMING ABOUT FOOD IS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE, LIEUTENANT YAMAZAKI!!
IN THAT CASE, I'M LEFT WITH ONLY ONE CHOICE, DETECTIVE KOTOBUKI!
MACK MACK MACK ... SHRIMP ...
SISH
I'M AFRAID SO!! MY SECRETEST OF SECRET WEAPONS!
SHUDDER
Y-YOU DON'T MEAN ...?!
YOUR DEEP-FRIED CHICKEN IS DEE-LICIOUS!!!
I'LL JUST HELP MYSELF !!!
THE DEEP-FRIED CHICKEN WAKE-UP CALL!
DA CHOO!
FAP FAP FAP FAP
SNIFF SNIFF
EXTRAS FROM YAMATO'S LUNCH
SWISH
BEFORE THAT, YOU HAVE TO WASH YOJR FACE AND BRJSH YOUR TEETH!
MMM...I ☆ KNOW ☆ THAT WONDERFUL SMELL!!
SPROING


ONE DAY, OUT OF ALLOWANCE MONEY, I STARTED DIGGING FOR CHANGE AT MIYASHITA PARK. WHEN ALL OF A SUDDEN...
I WAS SCOUTED BY THIS TEAM OF ARCHAEOLOGISTS WHO WERE SEARCHING FOR AN ANCIENT CIVILIZATION. WELL, THEY TOOK ME STRAIGHT TO EGYPT AND WE BEGAN DIGGING.
SOON...
...WE DISCOVERED A GIANT LION STATUE...AND THERE MUST'VE BEEN A CURSE ATTACHED TO IT.. BECAUSE THE THING SUDDENLY ROARED TO LIFE...
..AND CHASED US ALL OVER EGYPT!
BUT AFTER THE LION TOPPLED ONE OF THE PYRAMIDS, THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT FORCED US TO REBUILD THE WHOLE THING.. AND THAT TOOK UP ALL OF MY SUMMER VACATION! I DIDN'T EVEN GET HOME TILL THIS MORNING!
NOPE. SO FAR, I HAVEN'T FOUND ANYTHING REASONABLE.
SO HAVE YOU FOUND YOUR NEW APARTMENT?

What really blew my mind, though, was being able to get the Purple Panther X and Blue Panther Z costumes in the game! I tried desperately to get these, but so far I've only been able to collect Purple Panther X's top and bottom and Blue Panther Z's bottom. For those of you who've managed to get all of the costumes, salute you! I'd like to see how you did it. The game's a lot of fun, so I want all of you to try it, okay?

Other than that, these days, I've been going to plays, movies (Harry Potter was great!) and thinking young actress Kyoko Fukada is so cute!? Anyway, I'm busy every day but I'm still having a blast. It just seems mundane when I write it down here. Oh, well. I'm just an average person after all. LOL!

GALS! PRODUCTION NOTES

OH YAAAA! Time for a quiz! Been a long time, huh!? There's a huge mistake on the cover of this volume. Also the cover art for episode 34!!

→NEXT

Second Term.
GOOD MORNING, EVERYONE!
I DON'T THINK I CAN WALK IN THERE AND SPOIL THEIR ROMANTIC MOMENT
LOOKING AT THEM REMINDS ME OF HOW WE USED TO BE, RIGHT, DARLING?
I HOPE THEIR MOMENT IS OVER SOON! I WANNA EAT FRIED CHICKEN.
THEY LOOK JUST LIKE A NEWLYWED COUPLE.
THIS TIME, I THOUGHT OF A MASTERPIECE OF AN EXCUSE!
IT EVEN HAS A NAME! "THE MUMMY 3: THE LOST CIVILIZATION!"
RAN. DID YOU DO YOUR SUMMER HOMEWORK?
YO!! LONG TIME NO SEE!
MORNIN'!
PTTTH!
YEAH, RIGHT!

NOOOO!!!
I'LL DO ANYTHING, JUST LEAVE MY BAG INTACT!!
FOR EXAMPLE, I COULD CONFISCATE ALL OF THE CONTRABAND THAT'S IN YOUR BAG... MAKEUP, MDS, CANDY, ACCESSORIES ...?
YOU WON'T GO BACK ON YOUR WORD, WILL YOU?
GRIN
?!
...FEEL A SENSE OF DREAD...
SUDDENLY
DING-DONG
BUZZ!!
THIS IS NAKASEN'S "ASPECT OF PUNISHMENT?!"
HE'S GOT A GREAT SENSE OF HUMOR !!!
LOOK AT THAT !! HEY, WHO'S THE NEW GIRL ?!
GYA HA HA HA HA !!!

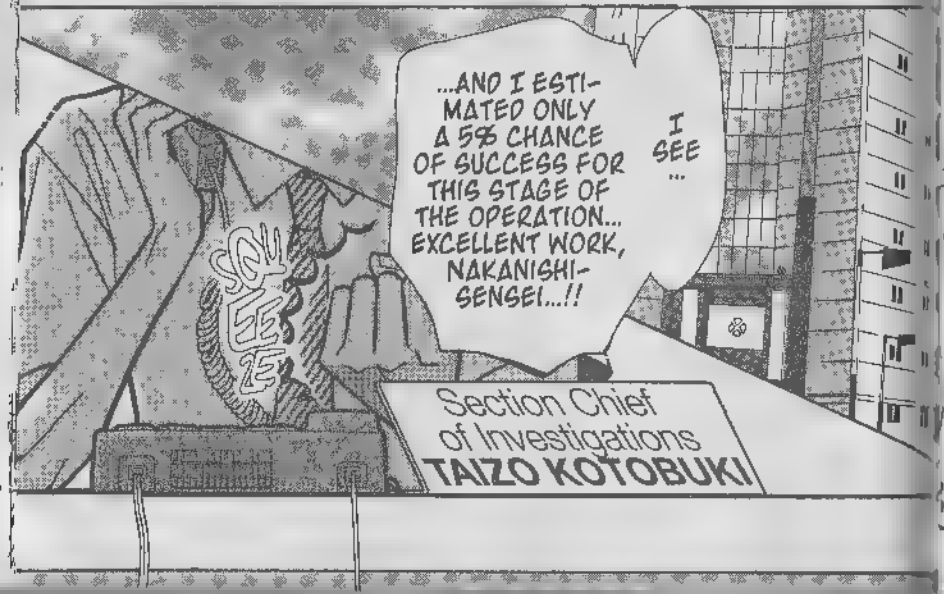
Can you spot it? TICK TICK TICK TICK TICK TICK.... What's your final answer?! It's Aya's hair color On the cover, it's brown... Does everyone "know" what her real hair color is? It's ash. (unless she's secretly a tan gal...??) I don't know how that one got past me, but after it was too late to fix I had a "Doh" moment. That's bad. It's vexing to me since I figure I should've sensed something was off when I looked at the colored art GROAN Sorry about that careless mistake

Production notes...how bout I reveal a secret instead? Okay, when I was planning episode 32, about going to the beach, I decided that was in the spring. This year, it'll be Oct- and so, drove my car, Berry-chan.

NEXT

I TAMED HIM, NATCH! I HAVE TO SAY, THAT MIGHT'VE BEEN MY GREATEST ADVENTURE!
JUMP
SHE GOT ME!
FOR KOTOBUKI ON
OH-HO... AND WHATEVER BECAME OF THE LION?
SWAT
35 POINTS !!!
YOU'RE TOO STRICT !!!
OKAY, OKAY, OKAY! I GUARANTEE YOU ANOTHER WIN AT THE SPORTS FESTIVAL THIS YEAR, SO YOU CAN CUT ME SOME SLACK AGAIN! RIGHT?!
HEH. NOT SO FAST, KOTOBUKI I SEEM TO RECALL YOU DITCHING THREE DAYS OF SUMMER REMEDIAL CLASSES
THUD THUD THUD
THUD THUD THUD THUD
SORRY, CHARLIE !!!
IF YOU HAD TIME TO COME UP WITH A PREPOSTEROUS STORY LIKE THAT, YOU HAD TIME TO DO YOUR HOMEWORK !!!
WELL, NAKASEN'S GEARED UP FOR THE NEW TERM.
YEP.
A SPORTS FESTIVAL VICTORY IS A GIVEN.. BUT THERE'S GOT TO BE SOME ASPECT OF PUNISHMENT..
GUP!
UWAAA!! YOU REMEMBER THAT...?!

KYAA!
KYAA!
YEAH, WE'LL NEVER GET ANOTHER CHANCE TO SEE RAN LIKE THIS AGAIN!!
ONE FOR THE SCRAP-BOOK!!
NO, HOLD THAT POSE!!
BUSS
BUSS
FLASH
FLASH
FLASH
OKAY, ONE MORE TIME!
CHEESE!
ARGH!
NO CAMERAS !!!
NO CAMERAS !!!
AND YOU CALL YOURSELVES MY FRIENDS ?!
SNIFF SNIFF
HEEHEEHEE...I DID IT. I DID IT! MY PART OF THE MISSION WENT OFF WITHOUT A HITCH...!!


...AND I ESTIMATED ONLY A 5% CHANCE OF SUCCESS FOR THIS STAGE OF THE OPERATION... EXCELLENT WORK, NAKANISHI-SENSEI...!!
I SEE ...
SQUEEZE
Section Chief of Investigations
TAIZO KOTOBUKI

HOW IS IT THAT YOU JUST HAPPENED TO HAVE A WIG AND CAMERA READY?!
LET'S TAKE A PICTURE, KOTOBUKI!
STAND IN FRONT OF THE BLACKBOARD!
SOMETHIN'S FISHY HERE!!

OH, COME ON. JUST LOOK OVER HERE!
SAY CHEESE.
KA-CHA

OH, REALLY? IN THAT CASE, I SUPPOSE YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO TURN OVER THE CONTENTS OF YOUR BAG!
I CAN'T !!!
NO, NO, NO! YOUR EXPRESSION HAS TO LOOK PRIM AND PROPER!!
..... YOU...

BUNN
BUNN
BUNN
LOOK AT HER
WHAT THE HECK HAP PENED?!
WOW !!!
SHE'S OVER HERE!!
DAMMIT ...THIS WHOLE OUTFIT GIVES ME GOOSE-BUMPS !!
TCH! YOU WANNA LAUGH AT ME?! GO AHEAD AND LAUGH !!

YEP WHO'D HAVE THOUGHT WE'D EVER GET TO SEE RAN WITH A BOB?!
THIS IS A REAL COLLECTOR'S ITEM!
AH! HEY, WHAT A WASTE
RIP RIP RIP RIP RIP
THIS DAMN PHOTO IS A BLOT ON MY LIFE!!
BRILLIANT...
THIS IS CLASSIC...
AAAAH, WHAT A WASTE!
RIP RIP RIP RIP RIP
ET TU, AYA AND MIYU?!
NOT YOU GUYS, TOO!!!
WHAT ELSE CAN YOU DO, MAN?
NEEEEE!!
IS IT OKAY TO LAUGH, YOU THINK?

BANZAI!! BANZAI!!
BANZAI! BANZAI!
SENSEI!! LET'S CELEBRATE TOGETHER!! RIGHT NOW!
WITH THIS, WE CAN SEND OUT RAN'S APPLICATION FOR THE POLICE EMPLOYMENT EXAMINATION!!
CHIEF...?
CH...
The next day.
HEY! ARE YOU CLOWNS MAKING COPIES OF THAT?!
FROM NOW ON, EVERY TIME I'M DOWN, I'M GONNA PULL THIS PIC OUT! HEE!
AH!
I CRACK UP EVERY TIME I LOOK AT IT!!!
BU KU KU!!

HAH ...?!
?
COME BACK, MY SUMMER VACATION !!!
RAN-CHAN!!
WHUMP
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
COME BACK TO ME, RAN-CHAN !!! COME BACK, SUMMER VACATION !!!
COME BACK AGAIN, MY LOVE !!!
SPR
I WANTED TO SEE YOU FOR SO LONG !!!
KRAAAAK
OOKIE?!
LYING, NO GOOD...!!!

GUARANTEED TO PUT YOU IN STITCHES!
HERE YOU GO. A PHOTO OF WHAT KOTOBUKI REALLY LOOKS LIKE.
BUZZ
WHEN I FIND WHOEVER'S SPREADIN' COPIES AROUND...
GRRRR
...THEY'RE GONNA GET A GOOD BUTT-KICKING...
AAAH! YOU HAGS !!!
WE SHOULD'VE KNOWN THESE DAYS, WHEREVER NUMBER TWO GOES, MAMI-RIN IS SURE TO FOLLOW.
HEH, WHO WERE YOU TRYING TO BE KOTOBUKI? CLEOPATRA?
I STILL HAVE 50 COPIES LEFT BACK AT MY HOUSE!
GO AHEAD ♡
I'LL TAKE ALL OF 'EM !!
...WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU WHILE I WAS GONE ...?
RAN-CHAN...
TICKLE TICKLE TICKLE

IN THAT CASE..
I'M BAACK !!!
HMPH. I'VE GOT NOTHING TO SAY IF HE DOESN'T HAVE AN APOLOGY FOR ME
RAN, COULDN'T YOU BE JUST A LITTLE NICER TO HIM?
SO "FINAL ANSWER," WE DON'T EVEN NEED TO USE THE "LIFE-LINE!"
YES, THAT'S MY FINAL ANSWER!
IS THAT YOUR FINAL ANSWER?
I PICTURE BOTH OF US ON THIS, THE WIND AT OUR BACKS. ♪ SO AM I COOL OR WHAT?
I CALL IT "GO GO MACHIDA !!"
TA-DAAA!! I SAVED UP MY PART-TIME PAY AND BOUGHT A SCOOTER!!
HEH-HEH-HEH I'LL GO YO ONE BETTE MY TIME AT DAD'S RAMEN SH WASN'T VOLUNTEE WORK, Y'KNOW!
WOW!
GLITTER
COME ON, LET'S TAKE A SCOOTER TOUR OF SHIBUYA!!! YAHOO!!
YOU'RE COOL!! YOU'RE COOL !!
SO.. ANY-WAY ..
OID YOU ALLY OOK FOR EACH UNKS?
THAT'S OR ME KNOW O YOU TO ESS AT! MAYBE I EVEN OOKED UO!
I WAS NOWHERE NEAR THERE!! WE ALL WENT TO OISO!! OISO, IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION!! THE SAME BEACH THAT'S IN YOUR TERRITORY, IN KANAGAWA PREFECTURE!!!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! YOU SAID YOU WERE GONNA GO HUNTING FOR HOT GUYS, SO I SCOURED KUJUKURI BEACH LOOKING FOR YOU!!
YOU DION'T GIVE ME THE TIME OF DAY ALL SUMMER AND NOW ALL OF A SUDDEN IT'S "I WANTED TO SEE YOU FOR SO LONG?!"
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU, MACHIDA IS IN TOKYO!!
OOK! OOK!
GYAAA! GYAAA!
DING DING
GONG
GONG!!
SHE DION'T HOOK UP!!
E ST OPED NIYU TH HER ART-ME JOB S ALL!
WAWAWA!
AHHH! WAIT! TATSUKICHI-KUN, WAIT!
WOBBLE
I'M GOING BACK TO THE MOUN-TAINS...
...BACK TO THE WILD...

.....
JUST LISTEN! BEFORE, MY BLOOD WOULD ALWAYS BOIL OVER WHEN I LOOKED AT BLACKWELL-SAN ...BUT NOW, NOTHING! WHAT DOES IT MEAN?!
DON'T STAND SO CLOSE TO ME YOUR VISOR IS POKING ME IN THE FOREHEAD.
IT'S MY HEART! FOR SOME REASON, IT'S FINALLY AT REST
FIGURE YOU'VE FINALLY GOTTEN OVER HER.
AH! YOU'RE NUMBER TWO!
...FOR A LONG TIME NOW.
ALTHOUGH I'VE GOTTA SAY, YOU'VE LOOKED LIKE THIS...
GOTTEN OVER HER...?
YEESH... WHO BUYS A SCOOTER BEFORE GETTING A LICENSE FOR IT?
THEY FIGHT LIKE GOOFBALLS AND THEY MAKE UP LIKE GOOFBALLS...
HAH?!
THEN YOU GOT THE SCOOTER HERE ALL THE WAY FROM MACHIDA BY...
WE CAN'T. I DON'T HAVE A LICENSE YET.
GYAAA! YOU'RE A BONAFIDE BONEHEAD!
BY PUSHING.
I WAS ANXIOUS FOR YOU TO SEE IT
SNICKER
ROLL ROLL
THEY REALLY ARE BIRDS OF A FEATHER...
.....HUH?
W-WHAT IS IT?!
REI!! C'MERE A SECOND !!!
STRIDE STRIDE STRIDE STRIDE
WHAT UP, YUYA?
??
HUH? HUH?

DESPITE MY UNWILLINGNESS TO GET ALONG WITH HIM, I STILL FELT SATISFIED EVERY TIME SHE CALLED ME "NUMBER TWO"
I WAS HAPPY JUST BEING NEAR HER... WHEN SHE WAS SILLY, WHEN SHE WAS ANGRY, WHEN SHE LAUGHED...
Y'KNOW, REI...
EVER SINCE TATSUKI MADE THE SCENE, I THINK I THREW OUT ANY HOPES OF BEING WITH RAN-CHAN.
...WHAT HAPPENED? WHEN DID MY FEELINGS BECOME PAST TENSE...?
SHE'S NEVER BORING, THAT'S FOR SURE.
RAN-CHAN ALWAYS HAS BEEN...
...AND ALWAYS WILL BE... THE GIRL OF MY DREAMS.
...I TOOK THE CORK OUT.
I KNOW.
AND I THINK IT'S HIGH TIME..
SOUNDS LIKE YOU STILL GOT UNRESOLVED FEELINGS BOTTLED UP INSIDE
SO WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO?
ALTHOUGH, WHEN I PUT IT IN WORDS, IT SOUNDS LIKE I'M A LOSER...
YOU'RE THE BEST!!
BUT I'M...
...IN LOVE WITH RAN-CHAN...
NUMBER TWO, I'M STARVIN'! TREAT ME TO SOMETHING!
CHEER UP, NUMBER TWO!
NO...I WAS...
...IN LOVE WITH RAN-CHAN...

HAH?!
HUH?!
D-DUEL TO THE DEATH ?!?
GUYS GOT ZERO SENSE OF TIMIN...
PLEASE, YUYA! NOT ONE MORE WORD ...!!
MM?
HAH ?!
OR IF YOU'RE DETERMINED TO FINISH WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY...
...AT LEAST LET ME DUEL TO THE DEATH WITH KOTO-BUKI FIRST !!!
AGAIN? HOW MANY FINAL SHOWDOWNS HAVE WE HAD?
THIS'LL BE OUR FINAL SHOWDOWN, KOTO-BUKI!!!
I THINK YOU'VE GOT THE WRONG IDEA!!
W-W-WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, MAMI-RIN?
HEY, WHAT IS ALL THE COMMOTION ?
AH! YAMA-TO-KUN!

I'M SORRY ABOUT EVERYTHING UP TILL NOW, MAMI.
WAIT HERE A MINUTE.
YUYA...?
...LONG-RUNNING, UNFULFILLED CRUSH...! I, YUYA ASOU, 17 YEARS OLD, AM GOING TO BURY YOUR REMAINS !!!
FAREWELL.....
YOU SERIOUS? DUDE, I WOULDN'T. I GOT THIS FEELING LIKE A STORM'S ON THE HORIZON
NOW?
RAN-CHAN ...
...CAN I TALK TO YOU?
MM? WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND, NUMBER TWO??
DON'T SAY ANOTHER WORD !!!
...I WAS IN...
...AC-TUALLY, FROM THE FIRST TIME I MET YOU...
SOME-THING I CAN SAY NOW...

C'...
THE ONLY THING I KNOW FOR SURE IS THAT MY JOB JUST GOT HARDER
W-WHAT DO YOJ THINK'S GONNA HAPPEN, OF-FICER?!
COLD SWEAT
WELL...
I HATE TO SAY I TOLO YA SO...
AND THIS IS OUR LAST ONE AS HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS, SO LET'S GIVE IT ALL WE'VE GOT!!!
LISTEN UP, BEEYOTCHES!! FESTIVALS ARE SECOND NATURE TO NATIVE TOKYOITE GALS!!!
BURN TOKYO SOUL
SOUL
GIRLS...
DARLING WAI FESTIVAL
SORE WA-SHOI WASHOI!
I BOUGHT THE MATERIAL FOR OUR OUTFITS!
FIRST OFF, LET'S MAKE A SHOW-STOPPING GAL SHRINE!
SHIBUYA CLUB, CAN WE COUNT ON YOU?!
YEAHHHH!
WELL, IT MIGHT NOT BE YOUR LAST ONE AS A HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR...
SKILLER
HILLER
THE SHIBUYA NEIGH-BOR-HOOD ASSOCI-ATION FESTIVAL IS THAT DAY AND...
I'M SORRY I'VE GOTTA WORK NEXT SUNDAY, BUT...
PURR
GOOD IDEA! IF WE GO NOW, WE SHOULD HAVE TIME TO LOOK AROJNO THREE STATIONS OR SO...
ANY-WAY, MIYU, HOW ABOUT CHECK-ING OUT THE TOYOKO LINE AREA TODAY?
YEAH, YEAH IN OTHER WORDS, THEIR USUAL STUPID FIGHTS.
MAMI IS CHALLENGING RAN TO A BATTLE TO THE DEATH.
THAT IS IT!!
..WITH THEIR OWN PORTABLE SHRINE I'LL PROBABLY HAVE TO PROVIDE SECURITY ALL DAY..
THIS YEAR'S FEST IS EXPECTED TO BE MORE CROWDED THAN EVER, SINCE NOW EVEN PEOPLE NOT WITH THE ASSOCIATION CAN JOIN IN.
A GAL SHRINE?! I THINK YOU'RE ONTO SOME-THING! AND FESTIVALS ARE RIGHT UP MY ALLEY, SO...
HAH?!
WHO CAN COME UP WITH THE SHRINE THAT GETS THE MOST AUDIENCE APPRECIATION?! IT'LL TAKE A COMBINATION OF STRENGTH, SKILL, LEADERSHIP AND CHARM! THE PERFECT LIFE OR DEATH BATTLE!!!
FEST! FEST!
COME ON!! WE'RE GONNA HAVE THE MOST ATTEN-TION-GRAB-BING TEAM IN SHIBUYA!
I'LL HELP, TOO
HARUE!! WE'VE GOT A LOT TO DO!! CALL IN ALL THE BUKURO GALS!!
DASH
OKAY
UM...MAMI-RIN, WHAT I WANTED TO SAY BEFORE...
AND IF I WIN, I'M GONNA PLASTER 'EM ALL OVER JAPAN!
DONE! IF I WIN, YOU GIVE ME ALL THE COPIES YOU HAVE OF THAT PHOTO !!

HEY, ISN'T TODAY HOUNAN HIGH'S SPORTS FESTIVAL?
MAYBE RAN'S BUSY WITH THAT...
FOR THE TIME BEING, ANYWAY
ARE THINGS GOING OKAY?!
AH! YAMATO-SAN!
GROAN
I JUST PRAY THAT IT'LL KEEP RUNNING THIS SMOOTHLY...

FWIP
ISN'T AYA-AYA HERE YET?
PLEASE, LET IT BE SO!!
CLAP CLAP
WASHO! WASHO!

UWAAA! YOU KNOW HOW TO HURT A GUY!
KIDS AREN'T SUPPOSED TO COME OUT WITH LINES LIKE THAT
...NAOKICHI IS STANDING AROUND, ALL GRIM...LIKE HE'S WAITING FOR SOMETHING...
WAIT A SECOND...
AYA-AYA'S THE GIRL OF MY DESTINY!
YEAH, DION'T YOU HEAR, OTO-CHI?
"AYA-AYA?"
THUMP
THUMP THUMP PARA-
OH, NO...
THUMP THUMP PARA PARA
WE'RE FATED TO BE TOGETHER! IT'S WRITTEN IN THE STARS THAT I'M GONNA MAKE HER HAPPY!!
THAT'S RIGHT. ♡
THE GIRL OF YOUR DESTINY...?

SNIFF. I'M TOUCHED!!
I NEVER THOUGHT THEY'D PUT THIS MUCH EFFORT INTO THEIR LAST SPORTS FESTIVAL...
I CAN'T TELL HIM THAT RAN AND EVERYONE ELSE HAVE COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN ABOUT THE SPORTS FESTIVAL...I JUST CAN'T TELL HIM!
I'M SORRY NAKANISHI-SENSEI!!

The day of the final battle.
THUMP THUMP THUMP
ZUUUU...
ROGER.
RIGHT NOW, THE MINAMI NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION'S SHRINE IS HEADING FOR BUNKAMURA STREET FROM THE CROSSING IN FRONT OF THE STATION.

PARA THUMP
PARA
SOIYASA!!
LET'S PARADE AROUND SHIBUYA WITH OUR FESTIVAL SPIRITS FLYIN' HIGH!!!
A'IGHT, SHIBUYA GALS!!
...GOD!!!
SHIBUYA GALS
...THAT COULD REALLY BE DANGEROUS!!
BUT THAT...
AT THIS RATE, THEY COULD HAVE A HEAD-ON COLLISION WITH THE OTHER SHRINES!
THIS IS BAD. SOMEHOW, WE'VE GOTTA STOP THEM!
THUMP THUMP THUMP
WAS HERE FIRST!!
STOP FOLLOWING ME!!
WASHO! WASHO!
SOIYAA SOIYAA!
SOIYAA
THUMP THUMP THUMP
PARA PARA THUMP
WASHO!!
LISTEN UP!!
THE HONOR OF IKEBUKURO GALS IS ON THE LINE HERE, SO LET'S SHOW 'EM THAT WE'RE SECOND TO NONE!!
IKEBUKURO GALS
OF COURSE WE GONNA START ON ...TER STREET!! ...STARBOARD!!
SWING THE RUDDER RIGHT!!
THE ONE THAT STANDS OUT THE MOST IS THE WINNER!! FIRST, LET'S HIT CENTER STREET!!
WASHO!!
THEY MAKE EVEN MORE OF AN IMPACT WHEN THE GALS CARRY 'EM!
AWESOME!! THOSE'RE THE GAL SHRINES I'VE BEEN HEARING ABOUT!!
BUN BUN
LET'S FOLLOW 'EM!

♪ SOIYA! SOIYA! ♪ WASHOI! WASHOI!
ANY-WAY, YOU HAVEN'T ACCOUNTED FOR SUPER FESTIVAL WOMAN KOTOBUKI RAN !!
HAHA!! JUST KEEP TELLIN' YOUR-SELF THAT!
RAN-CHAN !!
SHIBUYA GALS!! SHIBUYA GALS!!
...TO OUR GOR-GEOUS SHRINE !!
HATE TO RAIN ON YOUR PARADE, BUT YOURS DOESN'T HOLD A CANDLE...
IKEBU-KURO GALS, GO FOR IT!!
GO, MAMI-CHAN !!
HEY! MAMI-RIN !!!
DAMN!! SHE EVEN PRE-PARED STUNTS ...?!
SOIYASA !!
TATSU KICHI, LAOOEU !!
TA-OAAA !!
GALS
FESTI-VAL LIFE!!
WOOH!
MAMI!! THAT'S ENOUGH!! YOU DON'T HAVE TO COMPETE WITH RAN ANYMORE!!
SHUT UP! YOU DON'T INTERRJPT A LIFE OR DEATH BATTLE !!!
Shibuya Police
GRRR
OOOH!!
KIDS, DEFI-NITE DO NOT TRY THIS AT HOME
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN PUT A STOP TO THAT.
YUYA ...
...GET OUT THERE!
RE!...
EH?! HEY !!
YAMATO-SAN!! I NEED TO BORROW YOUR MEGA-PHONE!!
SNATCH
RASH
...PLUN-GES INTO THE MAEL-STROM !!!
YUYA ASOU, 17-YEARS-OLD...
COME BACK IN ONE PIECE!
HEY! ASOU-KUN!! DON'T
HE'S... HE'S RIGHT...I'M THE ONE THAT GOT MAMI SO WOUND UP.
AS FOR RAN-CHAN, IT LOOKS LIKE SHE'S JUST HAVING FUN AS USUAL, BUT
SMILE
ALL RIGHT ...!!

KIDO GALS
SHUT UP! SHUT UP! I DON'T KNOW ANY OTHER WAY TO LET YOU GO!!
WHAT I'M SAYING IS YOU DON'T HAVE TO PUT YOUR LIFE ON THE LINE ON MY ACCOUNT!!
IF YOU'RE SET ON BREAK-ING UP WITH ME, I'M GONNA GO DOWN IN FLAMES FIRST !!
THAT'S HOW MUCH I LOVE YOU!! YOU CAN SEE WITH YOUR OWN EYES HOW A WOMAN GIVES UP EVERYTHING FOR THE ONE SHE LOVES!! IDIOT!!!
MAMI.....
MAMI, LOOK AT ME!
NO!! MAMI HONDA WILL NEVER RUIN HER REP BY CRYING IN FRONT OF A MAN!
STUPID YUYA!! GO TAKE A WALK!!
STAY AWAY FROM ME
UWAA!
SORRY, GUYS!
FWUP
FWUP
ACK
YOW(4)
SQUEEZE
YOU'RE RIGHT
I AM STUPID.
AT SOME POINT, BEING WITH YOU JUST BECAME NATURAL ...
...AND EVEN THOUGH I'D ALREADY FALLEN FOR YOU BY THEN, I WAS TOO MUCH OF A DOPE TO NOTICE.

YUYA ...?
YOU TOLD ME I WAS YOUR "NUMBER ONE."
WELL, RIGHT BACK ATCHA. YOU'RE MY NUMBER ONE, MAMI. THE MOST IMPORTANT PERSON IN MY LIFE.
REALLY? YOU REALLY DON'T LOVE KOTOBUKI ANY MORE?
I'M AS SLOW ON THE UPTAKE AS THEY COME...
THAT'S WHAT I WAS TRYING TO TELL YOU BEFORE!
...BUT YOU'RE TOO QUICK TO JUMP TO CONCLUSIONS!
I THINK THAT'S SUPPOSED TO BE THE GUY'S LINE
YUYA I LOVE YOU SO MUCH!!
I'M NEVER GONNA LET YOU GO!
...ESPECIALLY IN FRONT OF ALL THESE PEOPLE...
QUIT CRYING...
HAH?!
I DON'T CARE! LET'S ANNOUNCE OUR LOVE TO THE WORLD...OR AT LEAST FROM HERE TO IKEBUKURO!!
WAAA!!
I DUNNO WHY, BUT NUMBER TWO AND MAMI-RIN ARE ACTING LIKE LOVE-BIRDS!
RIGHT OR BROTHER!!!
RAN!! GET DOWN!
WOO HOO
WHERE'S MY LIFE HEADING...?
HEY, MAMI-RIN! DON'T FORGET TO GIVE ME THOSE PICTURES!
LOVE & LOVE WASHO!!
LOVE & LOVE WASHO!!
WOO HOO
Episode 33: The End
Meanwhile, at Hounan High
WELL, YOUR CLASS CAME IN LAST, BUT KEEP YOUR CHIN UP... THERE'S ALWAYS NEXT YEAR...
.....
LOSIN' FOR THE WIN WITHOUT HAVING KOTOBUKI HERE WAS A BIG MISTAKE
DUDE I'M ALL IN
I'M SICK

Episode 34: Taizo and Nakanishi's Roundabout Do-or-Die Mission!

THE RUMORED(?) GALS PORTABLE SHRINE!!

SHIBUYA EDITION

ACTUALLY, I'VE NEVER SEEN A GALS PORTABLE SHRINE. (LOL) I GUESS IT'D JUST BE A STANDARD PORTABLE SHRINE THAT GALS WOULD JUST HAUL AROUND, BUT I THOUGHT SINCE I'M PUTTING IT IN THE MANGA, I'LL REALLY DO IT UP SO I THOUGHT UP TWO DIFFERING VERSIONS OF THE SHRINE, ONE MADE BY THE SHIBUYA GAL, THE OTHER WITH A 'BUKURO SPIN' OF COURSE I WAS GIVEN A HAND BY MY RIGHT-HAND WOMAN, MOMMY!

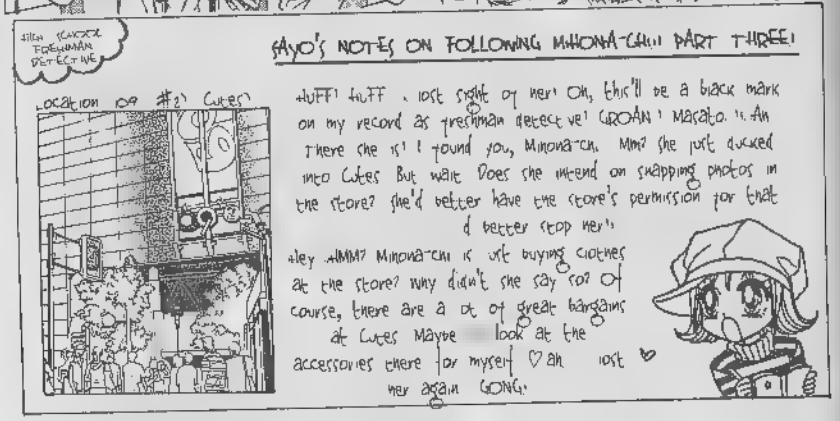
TA-DAAA Presenting the Shibuya Gals' portable shrine.

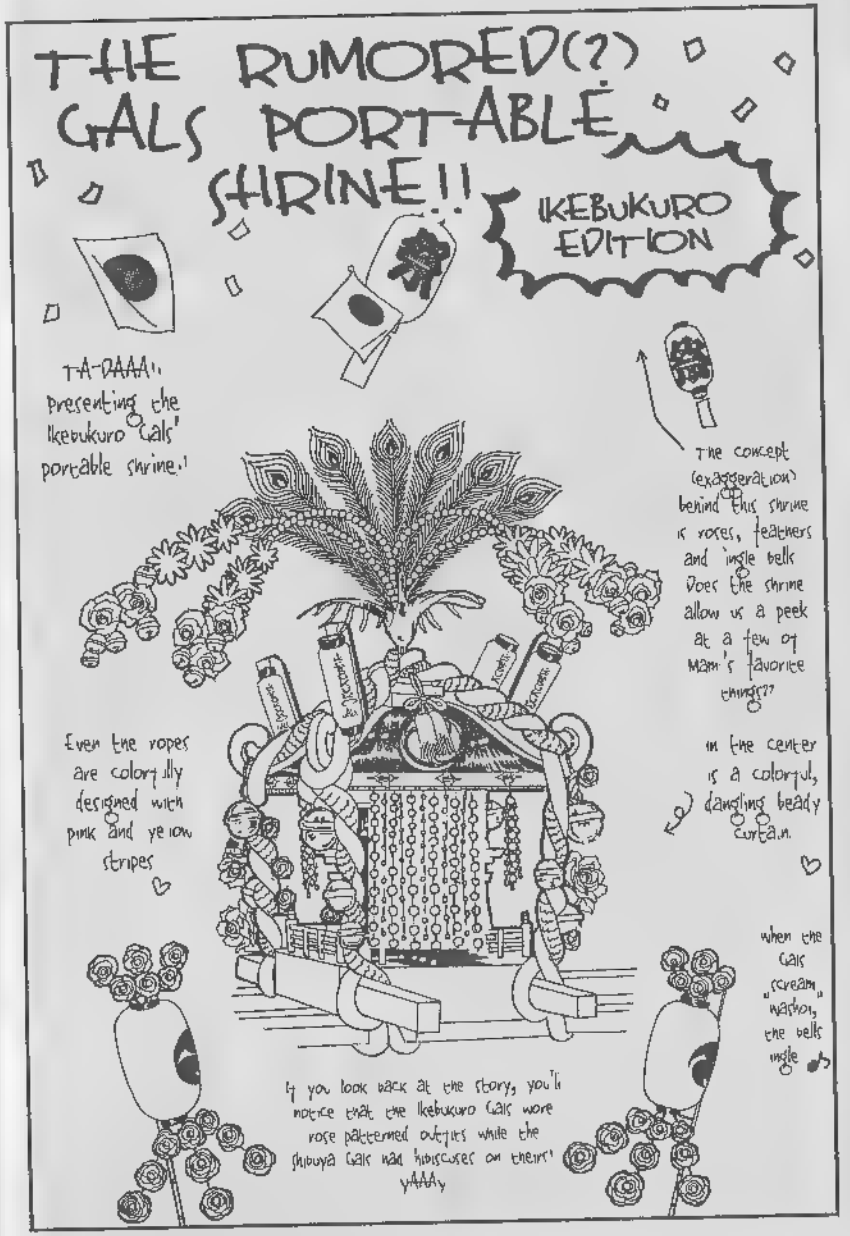
The main point is hibiscuses!. Even the red lanterns have hibiscuses attached. It's just too bad we couldn't see this in color.!

Which shrine would you like to carry around, the Shibuya version or the Ikebukuro one? I'd choose the Shibuya shrine!

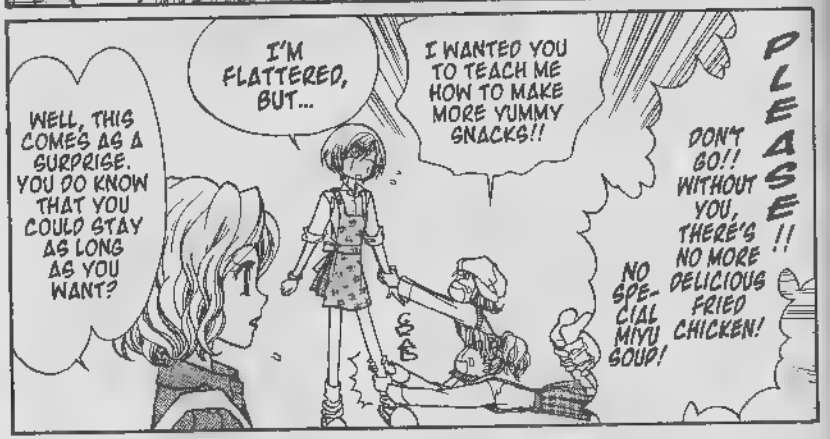
In the inner part of the shrine, the Gals placed a radio/cassette player that played background music during the festivities

THE KOTO-BUKI FAMILY PRE-CEPTS !!!
WHAT DO WE START THE MORNING WITH ?!
...SHALL BECOME A POLICE OFFICER.
...SHALL BECOME A POLICE OFFICER!!
NUMBER ONE ANYONE BORN INTO THE KOTO-BUKI FAMILY...
NUMBER ONE. ANYONE BORN INTO THE KOTO-BUKI FAMILY...
YAWN "I'M SLEEPY"


SAYO'S NOTES ON FOLLOWING MINONA-CHAN!! PART THREE!
LOCATION 09 #2 Cutes
huff! huff . lost sight of her! Oh, this'll be a black mark on my record as freshman detective! GROAN! Masato. "I'm There she is! I found you, Minona-chan. Mm? She just ducked into Cutes But wait Does she intend on swapping photos in the store? she'd better have the store's permission for that d better stop her!
Hey MMM? Minona-chan is out buying clothes at the store? why didn't she say so? Of course, there are a lot of great bargains at Cutes Maybe look at the accessories there for myself ♡ Ah lost her again GOING!


THE RUMORED(?) GALS PORTABLE SHRINE!!
IKEBUKURO EDITION
TA-DAAA!! presenting the Ikebukuro Gals' portable shrine!
The concept (exaggeration) behind this shrine is roses, feathers and jingle bells Does the shrine allow us a peek at a few of Mam's favorite things??
Even the ropes are colorfully designed with pink and yellow stripes
In the center is a colorful, dangling beady curtain.
When the Gals scream "washoi," the bells jingle
If you look back at the story, you'll notice that the Ikebukuro Gals wore rose patterned outfits while the Shibuya Gals had hibiscuses on their! yAAAy

I REALLY APPRECIATE YOUR LETTING ME STAY HERE FOR SO LONG, BUT I THINK IT'S ABOUT TIME I MOVE OUT ON MY OWN.
WE'VE FOUND A CONVENIENT, REASONABLE APARTMENT FOR MIYU IN SUGAMO.
DAD, MOM ..
...CAN WE HAVE A SECOND?
EH?!?
DONG


WELL, THIS COMES AS A SURPRISE. YOU DO KNOW THAT YOU COULD STAY AS LONG AS YOU WANT?
I'M FLATTERED, BUT...
I WANTED YOU TO TEACH ME HOW TO MAKE MORE YUMMY SNACKS!!
PLEASE!!
DON'T GO!! WITHOUT YOU, THERE'S NO MORE DELICIOUS FRIED CHICKEN!
NO SPECIAL MIYU SOUP!

THE SECRET'S IN THE KELP SOUP STOCK.
MIYU-CHAN ADDED THE SEASONING!
MOM, THIS MISO SOUP IS GREAT.
ANOTHER HELPING, PLEEEASE
I TRUST YOU'VE STUDIED THE GUIDE-BOOK THOROUGHLY?
RAN! THE POLICE OFFICER EMPLOYMENT EXAMINATION IS NEXT SUNDAY!
PAPA, THIS BOOK LOOKS LIKE IT'S NEVER BEEN OPENED!

I TOLD YOU A THOUSAND TIMES, I'M NOT GONNA BE A COP!!
IF YOU THINK YOU CAN BECOME AN OFFICER OF THE LAW WITHOUT STUDYING FOR IT, YOU'D BETTER THINK AGAIN!!
YEOW!
WHIZZ
YOU BREAK MY HEART!!!
PLEEH!! P.O.
I GUESS IT'S AS GOOD A TIME AS ANY...
WELL, MIYU, EVERYBODY'S HERE...

to Oiso. The beach wasn't officially open to the public yet for the season, so it was like I had the beach to myself! Tommo and I had a good time running around on the shore. The purpose of the trip was to take pictures of the beach, but after I got back home and saw the photos I'd taken, they were all shots of hot surfer guys. (LOL) So there you go. If you're on the lookout for hot surfer dudes, go to Oiso. (Still no excuse for me.)

I think it was around that time that my eyesight began to get bad, which probably has everything to do with my work habits. When I lay out my storyboards, I make my work room pitch black, then just turn on one fluorescent lamp and work for hours like that, squinting at the white paper. (You do that?! Jeez, you're weird.) It helps me focus, but now it looks like I'm paying for it. It doesn't mean I've stopped doing it, though. Hey.)

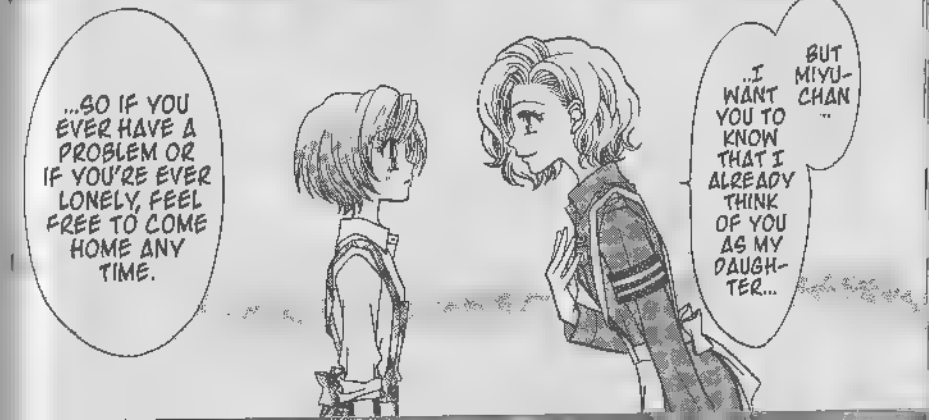
NEXT! EPISODE 33.

I went to a festival in Shibuya to research for this story. (Actually, it was a year ago, and seeing a woman standing on top of the portable shrine, barking orders, gave me inspiration for Ran and Mami. But when it came time to draw the story, my eyes were so astigmatic and me, being such a dunderhead, still didn't realize it.) That halfway through, the panels started overlapping. (From my POV.) And I couldn't make heads or tails of what was on the paper. That's when it finally hit home.

→NEXT

YOU SERIOUS?! THEN I DON'T HAVE TO TAKE THAT TEST?!
PAYING A MOVING COMPANY COSTS TOO MUCH! RAN, YOU CAN HELP THEM MOVE!
IT'S FOR YAMATO AND YA-MA-ZAKI-KUN'S SAKE, SO I EXPECT YOU TO MAKE YOUR BEST EFFORT!
EH?
TWIRL

IT WOULDN'T LOOK RIGHT IF MIYU AND I LIVED TOGETHER BEFORE SHE GRADUATED HIGH SCHOOL... SO UNTIL THEN...
...THAT THIS WOULD BE FOR THE BEST.
YA-MATO-KUN AND I DECIDED TOGETH-ER...
I SEE... THEN IF YOUR MINDS ARE MADE UP, FAR BE IT FROM ME TO SAY ANYTHING.
I HATE GOOD-BYES!!
UWAA!
UWAA!
I'M LONELY AL-READY!


...SO IF YOU EVER HAVE A PROBLEM OR IF YOU'RE EVER LONELY, FEEL FREE TO COME HOME ANY TIME.
...I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I ALREADY THINK OF YOU AS MY DAUGH-TER...
BUT MIYU-CHAN...

EH?! O-OKAY! I'LL DO IT!
OH, YEAH! AYA, YOU CALL OTOHATA!
WELL, DUH! I'VE GOT OTHER PEOPLE I HAVE TO CALL!
UMAA! YOU GAVE HIM YOUR ORDER, THEN JUST HUNG UP?
I-IT LOOKS BAD, DETECTIVE KOTOBUKI!
EEEYA WATCHIN' HER MAKES ME ITCHY!!
JMMM... HMMM...
SHE'S REHEARSING...
"AH! HELLO? THIS IS AYA..."
WHICH ONE?
AHEM! "AH! OTOHATA-KUN? GOOD MORNING!"
W-WHAT SHOULD I SAY AT FIRST...?
AYA-AYA, THE GIRL OF MY DESTINY, SEEMS CONFOUNDED ABOUT SOMETHING!
OVER!
WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH OUR CURRENT MISSION?!
OVER!
WHAT DOES, DETECTIVE NAOKICHI?!
OVER!

OKAY, BUT HOW ABOUT MEETING AFTER SCHOOL TODAY...?
GREAT, SEE YOU ON SUNDAY THEN!
AH! TATSUKICHI? DON'T MAKE ANY PLANS FOR SUNDAY! MIYU'S MOVING THAT DAY!
MMM? OH, I NEVER SAID ANYTHING ABOUT THAT. NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE IRON WILL OF TAIZO KOTOBUKI...!
HEE HEE HEE!
YATTA!
LUCKY, LUCKY, LUCKY!! I'LL GET TATSUKICHI TO HELP OUT, TOO!!
PAPA?! YOU'RE REALLY LETTING HER SLIDE ON THE TEST?!
DA-HAHN
...IN THE OPERATION I CALL "MISSION ROUND-ABOUT DO-OR-DIE"
!!!
BUT I WANT TO ENLIST THE HOUNAN HIGH SCHOOL SHIBUYA CLUB DETECTIVE DIVISION, TOO...
THERE ARE PLENTY OF WAYS THIS CAN BE PLAYED TO MY ADVANTAGE!!
I-I DON'T KNOW EXACTLY WHAT THIS IS ABOUT, BUT ROGER-DODGER, DAD! YOU'VE GOT OUR COOPERATION!!!
FWIP
LUNA EE~
.....

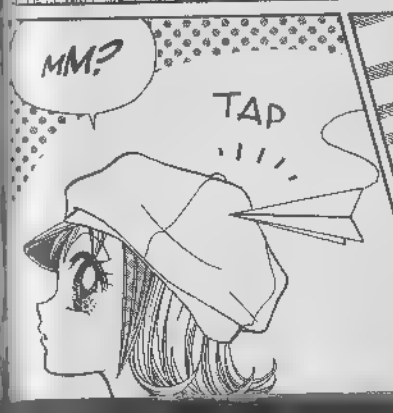
THIS IS A...
TH-

HEH-HEH-HEH... YOU CAN RELAX. EVERYTHING IS MOVING LIKE CLOCK-WORK.
WOULD HAVE BEEN A GREAT SECRET AGENT
BUT WITHOUT ATTRACTING ATTENTION!!
BUZZ
WE'VE GOTTA GET TO THE GUIDANCE OFFICE!
BUZZ
SECRE MESSA FROM NAKA NISH SENSE !!

Sunday.
THIS IS THE MOMENT OF TRUTH!! BUT BY JOINING FORCES, THE MISSION IS AN ENSURED SUCCESS!!!
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
YOU GOT ME..
WHAT'S NAKA SEN GO FIRED ABOUT

ONTROL YOUR MO-ONS, MAN! HAT'S THE STINY OF A TEC-IVE!!
PLEASE... LET ME GO TO HER, DE-TECTIVE KOTO-BUKI!
BUZZ
BUZZ
RIGHT NOW, WE'RE ON DUTY !!

SWISH
I'M COMING, MY DESTINY !!
I-I'M A FRESHMAN DETECTIVE...! BUT I CAN'T STAND BY AS THE WOMAN I LOVE IS IN DISTRESS!
WHAM
NO, DE-TECTIVE NAO-KI-CHI !!
UNGH
WE CAN'T LET YOU DO IT !!!


MM?
TAP

Y-YOU MEAN WE'RE WAITING TO GET OUR ORDERS ?!
FAST ANSWER
WE HAVE NO IDEA !!
B-BY THE WAY, WHAT IS OUR DUTY THIS TIME?!
SWOOP

DETECTIVE KOTOBUKI! DETECTIVE KOTOBUKI!
WELL, WE ARE TOGETHER ALMOST EVERY WEEKDAY AFTER SCHOOL
I WANNA BE WITH YUYA AT LEAST EVERY SATURDAY AND SUNDAY
ANYWAY, WHAT'S MAMI-RIN DOING HERE?
LEAVE IT TO ME!! MANUAL LABOR IS MY SPECIALTY!
TOBACCO
I'VE LOCATED OUR TARGET. OVER!
I SEE HER! AND SHE STILL APPEARS TO BE IGNORANT OF THE OPERATION!! OVER.
THERE'S NO SIGN OF MY AYA-AYA YET! OVER.
W-WHAT IS IT, DETECTIVE NAOKICHI?!
AHA!!
UNBELIEVABLE!!
NO PROB.
SORRY I'M LATE!
RATTLE
?!
...EVERY TIME I SEE YOU, AYA-AYA!!
YOU GET CUTER AND CUTER...
RATTLE
HEY!
SO THIS IS SUGAMO, THE OLD WOMEN'S HARAJUKU!!
LET'S GET SOME RICE CRACKERS!!
R-RAN-CHAN... I THOUGHT YOU CALLED US HERE TO HELP MIYU-CHAN MOVE...
...HOW MUCH HELP CAN YOU BE IN THAT OUTFIT?
EH?! I'M JUST LIKE THE FOREWOMAN!
HEAVY LIFTING IS MAN'S WORK! ANYWAY, I FIGURE WE'LL BE DONE BY EARLY AFTERNOON, SO I PLAN TO HANG OUT IN SHIBUYA.

SAYO?!
WE'RE REALLY BUSY TODAY, PATROLLING THE YAMANOTE LINE!!
HUNH
ALL'S WELL HERE, SO LET'S CONTINUE ON TO THE NEXT STATION !!
O-DETECTIVE KOTOBUKI, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT ?!?
I-I AT LEAST WANTED TO TRY HEALTHY SOFT ICE CREAM BEFORE... BEFORE I...
LOOK! IT'S RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU!! DON'T GIVE UP, DETECTIVE KOTOBUKI!!!!
AH, YOUTH!
HEALTHY SOFT ICE CREAM
DASH
ROGER !!
WHUMP
WHOA !!

WHUMP
OOF!
GRILLED BUNS
THE QUESTION IS WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, NAOKI ?!
Y'KNOW, THAT REALLY HURT.
.....
UM... ACTUALLY, WE'RE ON A SECRET...
MISSION!
WHAM
NO, UH.. THE FAMED SUGAMO SALTED AIFUKU* ARE SELLING AS WELL AS EVER !!
DETECTIVE MAGATO!! DID YOU DETECT ANY DISTURBANCES IN THE SHOPPING DISTRICT ?!
OH, MY GOD! OTO-CHI! WHEN DID YOU GET HERE?!
* OF ROUND RICE NET FILLED WITH RED BEAN JAM.

TEMPLE
GOTCHA !!!
I SEE YOUR LUCK POINTING IN THAT DIRECTION!!
GO THERE! NOW!!
DASH
ROGER!
YEAH?!
FLER
MMM!
MMM!!
I'VE NEVER SEEN A MONEY LINE THIS LONG !!
AND SHE'S OFF!! NOW, FRESHMAN DETECTIVES!!
RU FUEL
BUAH
BLOW SOME SENSE INTO THIS HEAD!
FOO! FOO.
BOO BOO
GET SMART!
FLAP FLAP FLAP
FRESHMAN DETECTIVE SMOKE ATTACK !!

ONLY I CAN SAVE IT NOW!
TH-THIS IS BAD ...! THE MISSION IS IN JEOPARDY!
YOU KNOW, WHEN THE THREE OF YOU GET TOGETHER, YOU GET COLLECTIVELY STUPIDER
BOOOOH
I BET IT'LL MAKE YOUR NOSE STOP BLEEDING, TOO!!
HANG IN THERE, DETECTIVE KOTOBUKI!!
MMM... NUMMY !!
MM?
EXCUSE ME, YOUNG LADY.
"STARS OF JUSTICE"
WELL, IF THOSE STARS DON'T BRING ME ANY COIN, THEY CAN JUST HANG IN MY EYES TILL KINGDOM COME!
...DWELLING WITHIN YOUR EYES !!
AHH...! YES! I CAN SEE THEM! THE STARS OF JUSTICE...
JUP

...AND I'M SURE IF I COULD ONLY GIVE HER THIS CHARM, HER HEALTH WOULD BE RESTORED!
BOO-HOO
IT'S... IT'S MY GRAND-DAUGHTER! SHE'S SICK IN BED...
YANK
AGH!
HE'S JUST A KIND-HEARTED OLD MAN!
.....
...YOU WANT ME TO TAKE YOU TO FUCHU, GRAMPS? I'LL TAKE YOU TO FUCHU.
FINE.....
WE DID IT. ♪
VICTORY
IT'S LIKE THERE'S A CONSPIRACY TO THROW ME OFF SCHEDULE!
MUTTER MUTTER
WHAT IS IT WITH TODAY?

VIVA THE FRESHMEN DETECTIVES!!!
WITH ALL OF US GANGING UP ON HER LIKE THAT, I'M SURE THE PRAYER'LL BE ANSWERED!!
HEH
THE OPERATION WAS A SUCCESS!
WHAT THE HECK DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
HELLO THERE, YOUNG LADY.
PRAYER?!
...IT'S JUST A STRAIGHT SHOT IF YOU TAKE THE KEIO LINE!
UM...TAKE THE YAMANOTE LINE AS FAR AS SHINJUKU. AND THEN...
UMMM...
FUCHU
JIYUGAOKA
SUGAMO
SHINJUKU
KEIO LINE
SHIBUYA
YAMANOTE LINE
SOUNDS CONFUSING. WOULD YOU TAKE ME THERE?
SUGAMO
CAN YOU TELL ME THE WAY TO FUCHU?
CLUTCH
SORRY, BUT I'VE GOTTA HELP MY FRIEND MOVE...
HAH? FUCHU?

GONG!!
Fire Hydrant
Police Employment Examination Recept on
Metropolitan Police Department
POLICE ACADEMY
WHAT IS THIS?
.....

SORRY TO DRAG YOU OUT HERE ON A SUNDAY...
THANKS FOR COMING, YOU GUYS!
THE POLICE ACADEMY IS IN FUCHU
DON'T TELL ME..
HUH? WHERE'S RAN?
THE APARTMENT'S THIS WAY!
"LITTLE OLD MAN," HUH? MY OLD MAN'S SLY LIKE A FOX.
OH WELL, QUE SERA SERA
YUP. AND IT'S PRETTY CHEAP FOR BEING SO CLOSE TO THE STATION
MIYU-CHAN, IT'S GREAT YOU FOUND AN APARTMENT!
ALL RIGHT, SHALL WE GET DOWN TO IT?
YEAHH!
SHE SAID SHE HAD TO TAKE SOME LITTLE OLD MAN TO FUCHU.
F-FUCHU?!

DID YOU REALLY THINK I'D GO "AS YOU WISH" WHEN YOU DECIDED MY FUTURE FOR ME?! MORE LIKE "AS IF!!"
I'VE BEEN SAYING THE SAME THING SINCE THE BEGINNING I'M GONNA LIVE MY LIFE THE WAY I WANT TO!!
NOOO!
RUUUP
HA!!
WHAT HAPPENED TO MY SEVENTEEN YEARS OF EFFORT ...?
RUSTLE RUSTLE
WHAT HAPPENED ...?
CAME ALL THIS WAY FOR NOTHING!!
TICK ME OFF!
RUSTLE

WITH THE HONOR OF THE KOTOBUKI FAMILY AT STAKE, GO...GO AND PASS THAT TEST!!!
PREPARE YOURSELF, RAN!!
HEH-HEH-HEH... WELL, AFTER COMING THIS FAR, I SUPPOSE IT'S OKAY TO REVEAL MY TRUE IDENTITY...
...YOUR GRANDDAUGHTER!!
HEY, GRAMPS! THIS IS THE POLICE ACADEMY! I THOUGHT YOU WANTED TO SEE ...
Metropolitan Police Department POLICE ACADEMY
GONG! IT WAS ALL A TRICK!!!
HERE'S YOUR ADMISSION TICKET FOR THE EXAM!
IT TOOK A MIRACLE, BUT MY ELDEST DAUGHTER'S GOING TO BE A POLICE OFFICER!
DO I HAVE TO SPELL IT OUT FOR YOU?! I DON'T WANNA BE A COP!
AFTER COMING ALL THIS WAY, YOU ARE STILL BEING SELFISH?!
SELFISH?!
WHO'S BEING SELFISH?!

S'AL-RIGHT! GOOD LUCK, MIYU-CHAN!
YUYA, I'M HUNGRY!
EH?! YOU'RE LEAVING ALREADY?
WHY DON'T WE GRAB SOMETHIN' TO EAT AROUND HERE?
YEAH, I THINK WE'LL LET YOU TWO HAVE A LITTLE PEACE AND QUIET. ♪
...I CAN GO TO JUNIOR COLLEGE! REALLY, THANKS A LOT, YOU GUYS!
AND BELIEV ME, I'L GONN USE IT! LEAS ENOUGH THAT

KA-CHA
BUZZ BUZZ
IT'LL BE FINE.
YOU'RE NEAR THE STATION, THERE'S A POLICE BOX RIGHT DOWN THE STREET AND IT'S A SAFE AREA EVEN AT NIGHT.
...NERVOUS.
QUIET ALL OF. SUDDEN MAKES M FEEL A LITTLE

OKAY!
THAT ABOUT DOES IT!
PAT

MOVING ONE PERSON'S WORTH OF STUFF IN IS NOTHIN'!
I THINK YOU'VE GOT A NICE PLACE HERE IT MAY BE ONLY ONE ROOM BUT THERE WAS STILL ENOUGH SPACE TO MAKE A STUDY NOOK!
GOOD WORK!
AND IT TOOK HARDLY ANY TIME AT ALL!
IT'S FAN-TASTIC!

except since was drawing a festival story that took a lot of dedicated details-oriented effort, I didn't have time to go out and get new glasses! Actually the deadline was heading my way like a typhoon, see? LOL) In the end, somehow pulled off a miracle and brought it in on time

Next came episode 34...and the miracle continued LOL) I did a lot of storyboarding, but hadn't finished researching Sugamo and according to my schedule, had only five days to get the manuscript to the editor Well, went to Sugamo, prayed to God at the temple there Please let me finish by deadline and he came through delivered the manuscript in the nick of time, but when my editor, Tomi-san, was breaking out in a cold sweat That's the first time in my life we ever drawn 7 pages in 24 hours (For me, this is a spectacular achievement) It made me think that humans can do a lot if they really try it, have to thank the printers for waiting till the last minute for me..' ^^

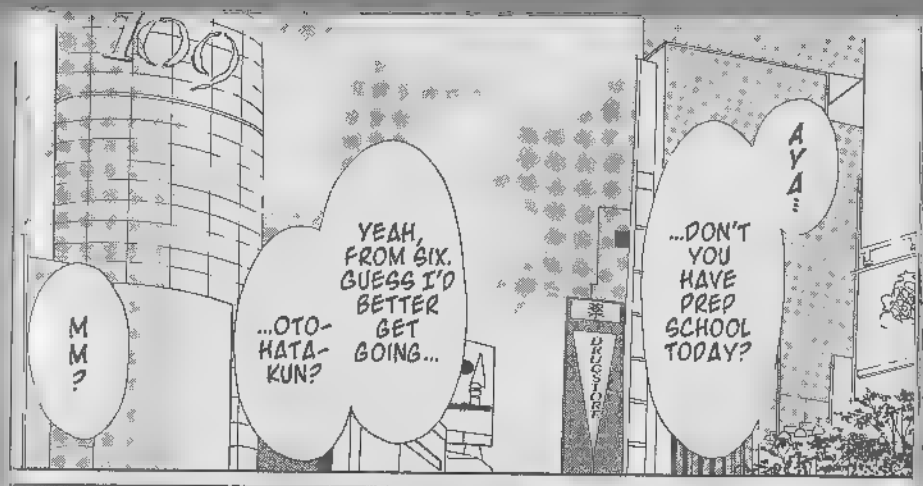
Mm? It sounds like a tale of hardship? Nahhh Not as long as I've got all of you readers with me'

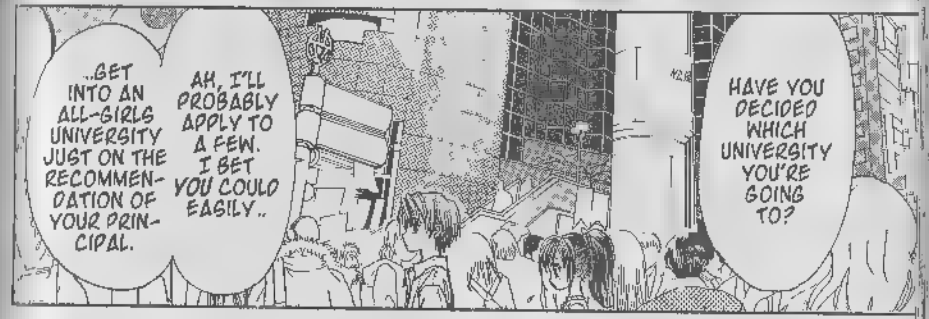
Next up was episode 35

→NEXT

IT'S LIKE RAN-PYON'S GOT HER CELL PHONE TURNED OFF.
THAT'S WEIRD.
I'M GONNA WALK AROUND, TRY AN' FIND HER. SEE YOU TWO LATER!
THE CHARGE HAS PROBABLY JUST RUN OUT.

NOT AT ALL!
I'M JUST THINKIN', WOULDN'T IT BE A WASTE?
IT'S MY OWN DECISION.
NOBODY ELSE HAS INFLUENCED ME EITHER WAY.
EH?
I'M GONNA APPLY TO THE SAME SCHOOLS YOU APPLY TO!!
I DON'T CARE HOW YOU THINK OF ME!
DASH
HEY! AYA!
SEE YOU!
THAT'S ALL I WANTED TO SAY!


MM?
...OTO-HATA-KUN?
YEAH, FROM SIX. GUESS I'D BETTER GET GOING...
AYA:
...DON'T YOU HAVE PREP SCHOOL TODAY?


...GET INTO AN ALL-GIRLS UNIVERSITY JUST ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF YOUR PRINCIPAL.
AH, I'LL PROBABLY APPLY TO A FEW. I BET YOU COULD EASILY..
HAVE YOU DECIDED WHICH UNIVERSITY YOU'RE GOING TO?

ACTUALLY, I...
I WANT TO GO TO THE SAME SCHOOL YOU GO TO.
...DECIDED NOT TO ASK OUR PRINCIPAL FOR A RECOMMENDATION.

...I'M MORE CONCERNED ABOUT ME IN THE NOW THAN I AM ABOUT ME IN THE FUTURE.
Y'KNOW, SOMETHING, OTOHATA...
DON'T SPIT OUT FOOD WHEN YOU TALK.
ANYWAY, I'M STILL FRYIN', SO I DECIDED I'M NOT GOIN' BACK HOME TODAY!!
AH, WHO ASKED YOU?!
YEAH, YOU YOU'RE EVEN MORE IDIOTIC FOR NOT NOTICING YOU WERE BEING PLAYED.
...I WANNA DECIDE MY FUTURE FOR MYSELF.
I FIGURE THERE'LL ALWAYS BE SOMETHING NEW WAITING FOR ME TOMORROW...AND BESIDES...
...IS RIGHT NOW. DOING WHAT I WANT, HAVIN' A GOOD TIME, PEACE, LOVE, ALL THAT. JUST LIVING!
WHAT'S MOST IMPORTANT TO ME...

SHE'S GOING OVER-BOARD AGAIN...
RUSTLE
I WANDA-WORTA RAN AWAY FROM HOME...
WHAT'RE YOU DOING OVER THERE?
...I'M STARV-ING...
OH OTOHATA!
SO.....
SLURP SLURP
DARN, THAT TICKED ME OFF! HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF ANY-THING SO IDIOTIC?!
... THEY ALL HAD ME GOING IN CIRCLES TO TRICK ME INTO BECOMING A COP!! CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?!

OTO-HATA...
...I'M NOT WRONG, AM I?
HEY, I DUNNO, RIGHT OR WRONG...
...BUT IT'S YOU. YOU MEAN YOU DON'T WANNA CHANGE...
...AND WHO KNOWS? MAYBE YOU NEVER WILL.
BUT I'VE BEEN WATCHING YOU SINCE WE WERE FRESHMEN...
...AND IN MY EYES, YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN A WILD, CRAZY, CAREFREE GIRL.

YEAH. THAT'S RIGHT.
YEAHHH, I THINK I'LL KEEP DOIN' WHAT I'M DOIN'.
BETTER GO HOME, RAN BEFORE THE COPS DETAIN YOU FOR BREAKING CURFEW.
HUH. AFTER STUFFING MY BELLY, I'M NOT SO MAD ANYMORE. NOW THE WHOLE THING JUST SEEMS SILLY!
HAH! BETTER WATCH OUT YOURSELF!

For some reason, all these ideas sprung to mind for Ran-chan's talents. LOL I know, it's like, what? built a whole story just on Ran-chan's little talents? LOL But I'm not finished! Again, was stuck storyboarding day in and day out, but the one factor that made the process go smoothly was "Ehan" kun. ☆ Thank you, Kazuki you're my savior this time, too. I was really draggin' with my writing brush and the result showed it. In the last pages, in fact, didn't even have time to create rough sketches, just drew on the fly. I got to clean up the art a little for the trade version you're holding now, but at the time, I really felt I knew what it means to be "swamped with work." Still, though, was having a great time drawing "Ehan." Thank you." has become one of my stock expressions. Busy-busy! ;o In the end, I loved doing this story.

And that brings us to episode 36 of my third Christmas story with the cats and remember doing a lot of thinking about what should do with it.

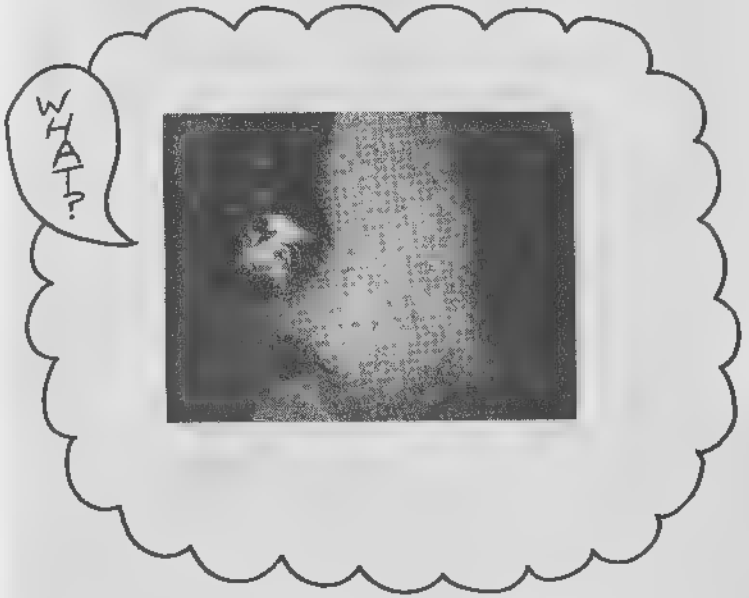
→ NEXT

WELL, HAH-HAH YOU CAN JOKE ALL YOU WANT...
DUDE I THINK YOU'D OB SEGA!
...BUT WHATEVER HAPPENS, I'M NEVER GONNA LET YOU HAVE RAN-PYON.
OTHER-WISE YOU WOULDN'T BE BLAMING ME FOR YOUR LACK OF CONFIDENCE.
POST-MISSION MEETING
YOU GUYS SHOULD'VE REALIZED SHE'D REFUSE TO TAKE THE EXAM.
OUR PLAN WORKED SO PER-FECTLY.
...I'M NOT GIVING UP...
I'M NOT GIVING UP.
RUMBLE RUMBLE
ACK! YOU-YOU POISON-SPITTING ...HIGH SCHOOL HELL-HOUND #1!!
WITH A LINE LIKE THAT, YOU'VE GOTTA BE FROM THE COUNTRY-SIDE.
I SWEAR IT BY THE NAME OF MACHIDA BLACK-WELL !!
WHAT-EVER THAT MEANS.
Episode 34: The End

OTOHATA!
THANKS FOR THE NOODLES!
AND WHO WOULD'VE THOUGHT? SOMETIMES YOU KNOW JUST WHAT TO SAY!
"WHO WOULD'VE THOUGHT" WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED MEAN?
CRAP!!!
ACK! MY CELL PHONE'S CHARGE IS OUT !!
...BUT WOULD YOU STOP TRYING TO STEAL HER?
I KNOW YOU MET RAN-PYON ONE YEAR EARLIER THAN ME...
PSST! OTO-CHI!
YEAH...LIKE THE REST OF US...

Episode 35: Ran Kotobuki, Staking Her Life on Her Talents!!

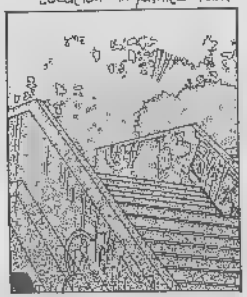
TIMMO-CHI'S ROOM.



This picture was taken on the veranda of my workspace. The shot's taken looking down, so if you just glance at the photo, you'll see something alive down there but look closer and it's Timothy ♡ Coincidentally enough, at this very moment he's on the veranda, barking at a passer-by. Timmo always turns peevish when he gets hungry and his howling volume goes way UP!! (LOL) Just wait a little longer, Timmo! Din-din's almost ready!! These days, he looks like a little snarly-haired puffball! I'd better give him a shampoo one of these days!

HIGH SCHOOL FRESHMAN DETECTIVE

location Miyashita park



SAYO'S NOTES ON FOLLOWING MIHONA-CHI!! PART FOUR!

I've been following her all over Shibuya, but lost track of her again. Where are you, Mihona-chi? Hm? Ah, I spotted her! She's running around un trendy Miyashita park with camera in hand. One glance and you can tell she's a shady character. If you see a woman with butterscotch hair running to and fro in Miyashita park, snapping photos as she goes, there's a 75% chance it's Mihona-chi. Waaaa, she crossed the pedestrian bridge, then ran out of sight. Dang, that woman's fast on her feet.

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKIN' AT?! STUDID COUPLE!!
TAKE YOUR HAPPY CRAP OUTTA MY FACE!!
I KNOW! NEXT MONTH IS CHRIST-MAS!!
IF WE DON'T SNAG ANY HOT GUYS, LIKE, RIGHT NOW, WE'RE GONNA BE UP A CREEK !!
HEY-HEY! TICKETS TO MEISHO DAI-ICHI'S SCHOOL FESTIVAL !!
MM?!
TO GET A HANDSOME GUY, MAYBE WE'VE GOTTA BE MORE PROACTIVE...
RRR... I GET TICKED OFF EVERY-WHERE I LOOK !!
THANKS, BROTHER !!
OF COURSE I'LL BE THERE!
...SO MAKE IT IF YOU CAN!
WE'VE GOT SOME NEW EVENTS THIS TIME AROUND...
WAIT UP!
THUD THUD THUD
AT'S
TH
UGYAA!
GIMME!! GIMME !!
SO WHAT DO YOU NEED WITH A TICKET, WENCH? YOU HAVE ALREADY GOT A BOY-FRIEND!
UM, RAN-CHAN, ACTU-UALLY... THIS YEAR ..
IF YOU REALLY, REALLY WANNA GO, IT'LL COST YOU 10,000 YEN EACH TICKET!!!
WHAT ARE YOU, A SCALPER ?!
GYAA! GYAA!
THAT IS LOW, EVEN FOR YOU, KOTO-BUKI !!
YOU'RE A MONSTER !!
UM.....
I'M GONNA BECOME MEISHO QUEEN AGAIN THIS YEAR AND GET THE CD GIFT CERTIFI-CATE!!!
NOT A CHANCE !!
OOF!
A LITTLE OVER 5,000

RIGHT NOW, IT'S IN FOR COUPLES TO WEAR THE SAME COLOGNE.
ALL THE COSMETICS AND COLOGNES HAVE GONE INTO AUTUMN MODE!!
I'M GUESS SHE USED THE "WEAR THE SAME COLOGNE" LINE JUST TO GET HIM TO BUY THE STUFF
JUST GETTING TO WEAR THE SAME COLOGNE AS YOU MAKES ME "HAPPY!!"
RECENTLY, I'VE NOTICED THERE'S A LOT MORE "GUY" STUFF THAT'S OKAY FOR GALS TO USE, TOO
HERE, TATSUKICHI, YOU CAN KEEP THIS REFILLABLE BOTTLE!
MM, THIS "HAPPY" STUFF SMELLS GOOD, DOESN'T IT?
I WONDER WHAT KIND OF COLOGNE OTOHATA-KUN USES?
IT'S CALLED "ALL IN ONE."
WHAT COLOGNE DO YOU AND MAMI-RIN SHARE, NUMBER TWO?
College Entrance Exam Study Guide

...IF. IF YOU REALLY WANT TO GO, YOU CAN HAVE THEM.
I WAS GOING TO OFFER THESE EXTRA TICKETS I GOT FROM OTOHATA-KUN TO SATSUKI AND REI BUT...
WELL.. SEEING HOW DESPERATE YOU THREE WERE, I JUST FELT KINDA SORRY FOR YOU.
HO-SHINO... YOU ARE AN ANGEL !!
GRRR
SINCE YOU GAVE US THESE TICKETS, I'M GONNA PRETEND I DIDN'T HEAR THAT!!!
THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN YOU AND KOTOBUKI IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE MOON AND A TURTLE !!
* THE JAPANESE EQUIVALENT OF "NIGHT AND DAY"

CONGRATS.
MIYU-CHAN! THAT'S FANTASTIC!
HEH-HEH! THANKS!
BUT IT'S ALL THANKS TO NAKA-SEN, WHO WROTE ME A GREAT LETTER OF RECOMMEN-DATION!
IT'S NOT ALL THANKS TO HIM!
YOU NEVER WOULD'VE MADE IT WITHOUT STUDYING AS HARD AS YOU HAVE!
AND I'M GONNA KEEP WORKING HARD SO I CAN GET LICENSED TO BE A KINDER-GARTEN TEACHER!
LISTEN, I GET OFF EARLY TONIGHT, SO LET'S CELE-BRATE!
GREAT. ♡
I THINK WE'RE ..
..JUST IN THE WAY HERE.
...DO YOU KNOW IF OTO-HATA-KUN HAS DECIDED WHICH SCHOOL HE WANTS TO GO TO?
REI?
HI-HO HI-HO IT'S OFF TO PLAY WE GO!
SO LET'S EAT AND THINK TO EAT!
HEADACHE GOOD BEER, ALKOHOL MAKES ME HUNGRY
BY THE WAY, AYA-CHAN, ISN'T IT ABOUT TIME FOR YOU TO TAKE ENTRANCE EXAMS?
HAVE YOU APPLIED YET?
EH? ACTU-ALLY, UM..
..NUM-BER TWO-KUN..

YA-MA-TO-KUN!
TODAY, MIYU GETS...
WHAT'D, YOU FOR-GET?
MM? WHAT'S UP, BRO?
WHAT'S GOT YOU ALL FIDGE-TY?
FIDGET
FIDGET
FIDGET
THE LETTER FROM TOKUSEI CAME TODAY !!
AND I PASSED THEIR ENTRANCE EXAM! I'M IN!
Hauman High School
Ms Miyu Yamazaki
2002 Course of study
Kindergarten education
Status: ACCEPTED
Tatsuse Junior College
President, Kaoru Nagata
MIYU!...
REALLY?!?
WOW!
I WANTED TO TELL YOU FACE-TO-FACE, SO I CAME RUNNING OVER HERE!

SHOCK
WHAAAT?!
YOU GAVE TICKETS TO MEISHO DAIICHI'S FESTIVAL TO THE THREE WEIRD SISTERS
?!?
SWAP
FARE-WELL, YOUTH... FARE-WELL, HAPPI-NESS...
YOU'RE THROWING SALT ON THEIR WOUNDS!
AWAWAWAWA
KYAAA! I'M SO HAPPY.
I GET TO GO WITH YAMATO-KUN THIS YEAR!
NUMBER ONE!
I-I'M SORRY!
FEELS LIKE... MY LIFE FORCE IS BEING DRAIN-ED.
JUMP
YOU KNO WE DON HAVE BO FRIEND EITHER
OH, WHA HAVE YOU DONE ?

SIDE
MMM.. HE'S IN THE HUMANITIES DEPARTMENT, BUT HE'S ALSO TAKING CHEMISTRY AND PHYSICS. .SO I BET HE'S APPLYING TO PRIVATE SCHOOLS AS BACKUP BUT REALLY WANTS TO GET INTO A STATE SCHOOL.
ZWT
F000
SALE
S-STATE SCHOOL ?
D-DON'T TELL ME . TOKYO UNIVER-SITY*...?
* JAPAN'S MOST PRESTIGIOUS UNIVERSITY
AH, AYA-CHAN, T YOU AY?
NAH, I DON'T THINK SO. BUT KNOWING HIM, HE'S PROBABLY GOT HIS SIGHTS SET HIGH.
DASH!!
AH! AYA-CHAN ?!
I...
...I HAVE TO GO TO A BOOKSTORE!!!

SHIP
BUWA!
RAN... WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU DOING??
THIS IS TOO MUCH TALENT FOR ANY TALENT SHOW!!
SHE REALLY IS...
...A BUBBLE-HEAD.
I'M RE-HEARSING FOR THE TALENT SHOW PART OF THE CONTEST!
THIS YEAR, ONLY I, RAN KOTOBUKI, SHALL ASCEND THE THRONE TO BE-COME MEISHO QUEEN !!
THE WORD "TIE" DOESN'T APPEAR IN MY DICTION-ARY!!
MAMI-RIN DOES NOT STAND A CHANCE AGAINST ME!!
MAMIRIN, COME ON!!
FWORRR!!
HO!
AAAAH!!
IT'S A MIRACLE!
HEY!!

"THANK YOU!"
"THANK YOU."
I'M RAN KOTO-BUKI, A SENIOR AT HOU-NAN HIGH!!
AND I'M GONNA DO "ENARI"" FOR YOU!!
HA HA HA HA HA
I'M GONNA TWIRL SEVEN HULA HOOPS AT ONCE!!
TWIRL
NEXT!!
SUPER SPEED SPIN-NING!!
SPIN SPIN SPIN SPIN SPIN
OOOH!
URYAAA!
EVERY-BODY LOVES BUBBLES, RIGHT?!
FWIP
NEXT!!
RAN KOTOBUKI ON STAGE

Last year went to Osaka to take research photos but this time around, I thought, yeah, Shibuya's the most fitting locale and so off I went to Shibuya again to gather data. There were all kinds of Christmas lights around Hachiko, Marui was all lit up, and the whole area was just beautiful. Every year do research for Christmas stories, but this time a certain flyer captured my attention, advertising pink Christmas trees (my favorite color) I'm talking about real fir trees, all pink.

And speaking of pink, Megumi Toyoguchi, who plays the role of Ran-chan in the anime, is also a proponent of pink in fact, the two of us have formed a pink alliance, "Double Pink". But just when we got used to chanting "Bravo!! yay, Double Pink", another member joined the ranks (see, Megu's precious dog, Ran-chan, is also a pink fan and by that I mean Megu dresses her up in a lot of pink outfits,) so that makes three of us. Now we're "Triple Pink!!" Live long and prosper, Triple Pink (LOL) I'm sure we'll continue to travel far and wide in search of pink.

OH NO!!
WHY?!?
WHY DO THE NUGGETS HAVE TO BE HALF-PRICE ONLY ON THE WEEK-END?!?
YUMMY!!
AT LEAST YOU GOT TO BUY A SWEET POTATO PIE!!
AFTER GETTING THAT COLOGNE, I'M WIPED OUT TILL MY NEXT PAYDAY, SO WE'VE JUST GOTTA HOLD ON.
AH!

YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN...
FIVE SECRET FIGHTING TECHNIQUES OF PURPLE PANTHER X!!
SWISHH
NEXT!!
YOU DON'T NEED THE MEISHO QUEEN THING! WITH TALENT LIKE THAT, YOU CAN MAKE A LIVING...
I'LL BE BACK IN A BIT.
NO DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
ARE YOU IN SOME KIND OF TROUBLE?
WHAT IS UP, AYA?
3-1
THIRD YEAR, CLASS ONE, AYA HOSHINO...
WISH
X!!
MM?
THIRD YEAR, CLASS ONE, AYA HOSHINO...
WONDER WHAT THAT WAS ABOUT...
?.....
...PLEASE REPORT TO THE FACULTY ROOM.

YANK
TA!
OTOHAAA...
THUD THUD THUD
...IT MIGHT HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH WHAT SHE SAID.
AH...
HEY, TODAY AYA GOT CALLED DOWN TO THE OFFICE! WOULD YOU HAPPEN TO KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT?!
JERK JERK
LET GO.
YOU'RE GONNA STRETCH MY SHIRT.
WHAT SHE SAID?! WHAT?! WHAT'D SHE SAY?!
WHATEVER HAPPENED TODAY, MAYBE IT'S TIED IN WITH THAT.
SHE SAID SHE WAS GONNA TURN DOWN YOUR SCHOOL'S OFFER TO RECOMMEND HER FOR A UNIVERSITY
OUCH!!
YOU SERIOUS?
JEEZ! EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE, WHEN SHE GETS IT IN HER HEAD TO DO SOMETHING, THERE'S NO STOPPING HER!
SHE WANTS TO GO TO THE SAME SCHOOL AS YOU, HUH?
ALL THE TEACHERS AND STAFF PROBABLY FIGURE SHE'S NUTS!
THAT'S GOTTA BE IT!
AHHH, I'M USED TO IT.
TSOTOYA RECORDS
NEW RELEASES FROM MAY ON

whoops, looks like I've gotten way off track

so, back to the pink Christmas trees yeah, looked all over the place, but couldn't track down a one in the end, I didn't give up, but bought a huge 6 ft white tree and decorated it all in pink, from the big ribbons hung with wires, to the ball ornaments, to the bells. After attaching the lights, it was complete, a beautiful, dazzling tree which could've shown you all how it looked office to day, it was my best Christmas tree ever! so episode 26 was kind of like that kind of 'like what?' hey! well, how'd you like this, my review of what was going down while working on each episode? hope you didn't get turned off by this kind of style. THUMP THUMP

Right now in the magazine, Rain Chan and friends have finally made it to their third term as senior high school students. For those of you who just read the trades, please be just a little patient. But do recommend picking up Ribon, though, it's a great manga mag

NOTE: MIHONA FUJII IS REFERRING TO THE JAPANESE PUBLICATION IN WHICH GALS! IS SERIALIZED. SORRY IT'S NOT AVAILABLE IN THE USA

BUT ABOUT AYA, LISTENING TO YOU, IT SOUNDS LIKE I DON'T HAVE MUCH TO WORRY ABOUT AFTER ALL! LATER, DUDE!
IN FACT, I CAN'T AFFORD TO JUST STAND AROUND AND CHEW THE FAT! ... I'VE GOT SKILLS TO POLISH!
YOU'RE A CRAFTY DEVIL, OTO-CHI...
MM?
SKILLS TO POLISH ...?
"THANK YOU!"
"THANK YOU!"
MMM... I'M STILL NOT GETTING THE TOTALITY OF THE ENARI EXPERIENCE...
AND NOT ONLY THAT, YOU'RE HEARTLESS... OTO-CHI'S HEARTLESS !!!
HEY
DON'T SHOUT WEIRD STUFF LIKE THAT PEOPLE MIGHT GET THE WRONG IDEA ABOUT YOU AND ME.

HEH
.HOULD BE FUN.
.BUT I WORRY ABOUT HER, Y'KNOW, HOW SHE'LL HANDLE IT IF THE ADULTS START PUTTING PRESSURE ON HER.
AS LONG AS SHE MADE THE DECISION HERSELF, I DON'T REALLY THINK IT'S MY PLACE TO SAY ANY-THING..
HAH?
BY THE WAY, AT THIS YEAR'S FESTIVAL... TRY AND KEEP THINGS... ... DOWN A NOTCH, OKAY?
OTO-HATA ...
I WANNA SEE... ...HOW SHE FACES UP TO IT.
I CAN'T DO THAT !!
IN FACT, I'VE GOT A PLAN TO GET THE WHOLE CROWD ALL FIRED UP!
FINE. I'LL WATCH YOUR ANTICS ...FROM AFAR.
IMPOSSIBLE
IMPOSSIBLE
SHARE

GRRRR!!
I SWEAR, I'M NOT GONNA LOSE TO YOU!!
JEALOUSY AND LACK OF CONFIDENCE ARE TWO DIFFERENT THINGS!!
...THAT KOTOBUKI THINKS MORE OF YOU THAN ANYONE ELSE?
THAT WAY, YOU'LL ALSO BUILD UP A LITTLE MORE CONFIDENCE.
Sunday.
Kendo Club Performance 1:00
Open café
COFFEE
FLAP
YEAH!
LET'S GO, SISTERS!!
...BUT I GOTTA TELL YOU, IT MAKES ME UNEASY EVERY TIME YOU TWO ARE TOGETHER!
...BUT THAT'S NOT HOW IT HAPPENED! SO YOU TWO HAVE THIS DEEP BOND-LIKE THING GOING BETWEEN YOU...AND OKAY, FINE..
IF YOU AND ME FIRST MET HER AT EXACTLY THE SAME TIME, MAYBE RAN AND I WOULD BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER BETTER..
I'LL BE HONEST, I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF A FIT OF JEALOUSY RIGHT NOW!
WHEN HAVE I EVER PUT MY HAND ON HER?
I'M THROWIN' DOWN THE GAUNTLET!! YOU AND ME, MANO A MANO, A SHOWDOWN!! AND IF I WIN, YOU KEEP YOUR HANDS OFF OF RAN-PYON!!
RUMBLE
YEAH... SO, WHAT'S YOUR POINT?
GRR
YOU TURN YOUR BACK ON A MAN'S CHALLENGE?!
TURN
WHY SHOULD I FIGHT YOU?
THIS IS STUPID
I CAN'T JUST STAND BACK AND TAKE IT WHEN HALF OF RAN'S HEART IS BEING STOLEN BEFORE MY VERY EYES!
ARE YOU EVEN LISTENING TO ME, OTO-CHI?!
I KNOW YOU'RE A GOOD GUY...
BUT!!

MEISHOU'S ODEN* IS SCRUMDIDDLYUMPTIOUS!
THEY'VE GOT AT LEAST AS MANY PEOPLE HERE AS LAST YEAR! ♡
TWINKLE
HERE IT COMES!!!
...AND THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT THEM ?!?
EH MA... CUT
*HOT VEGGIES, FISH DUMPLINGS, TOFU, ETC. STEWED IN A THIN SOY SOUP
AH!
OKAY! WHAT KIND?
YUYA! ♡ MAMI WANTS TO EAT A CRÊPE.
STRAWBERRY. ♡

WOW
THE BEAUTIFUL THREE...
...MAKE THEIR GRAND ENTRANCE!!!
I BET WE DON'T HAVE TO OPEN OUR MOUTHS AND WE'LL GET GUYS WORSHIPING AT OUR FEET!!
TOO EASY!!
DUDE! CHECK OUT THOSE THREE!
WA HA HA HA!
MAJOR CUTIES. ♡
BET WE DON'T EVEN HAVE TO SAY WORD ONE TO WIND UP WITH A BOYFRIEND!!
IT'LL BE LIKE SHOOTING FISH IN A BARREL!
THIS PLACE IS WALL-TO-WALL HOT GUYS!!
YEAH, BABY!!
MEANWHILE

I'M ENARI!!
HEY, NUMBER TWO! MAMI-RIN!
UWAAA!
UM...ACTUALLY, THIS YEAR, WE DON'T
I'M NOT INTERESTED IN ANY QUEEN CONTEST.
I'VE COME PREPARED WITH SO MANY TALENTS, THEY MIGHT AS WELL DECLARE ME MEISHO QUEEN RIGHT NOW!
HEH-HEH! AND THIS IS ONLY THE TIP OF THE ICE-BERG!
UMM, I DUNNO, BUT
RIIIGHT!
RIGHT?
AFTER ALL, I'M ALREADY A PRINCESS! AND YUYA IS MY PRINCE!
HUH?!
Y-YOU LOOK JUST LIKE HIM!
R-RAN-CHAN?!
IT TOOK ME FOREVER TO FIND THIS MASK!
FOOOO!

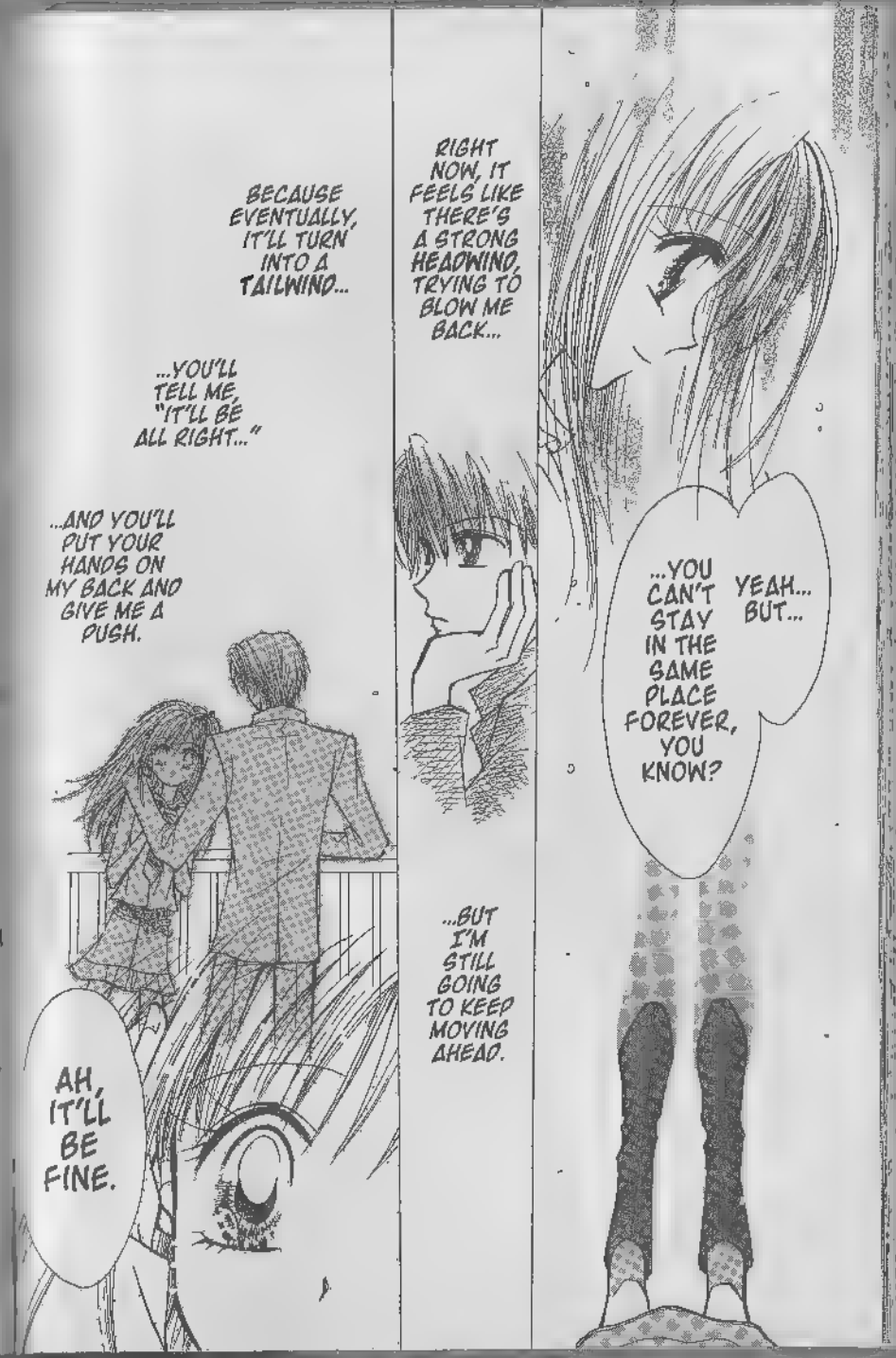
..MAMI-RIN HAS CHANGED TOO MUCH.
THEY SAY THAT LOVE CHANGES A WOMAN BUT...
YOU'VE LOST YOUR SENSE OF RIVALRY ?!
SAY IT AIN'T SO!
GLITTER
COOL! THEN SHE'S GOT A LOCK ON THAT CD GIFT CERTI-FICATE!
SHE'S WAILING ABOUT THE LACK OF COMPETITION FOR THIS YEAR'S MEISHO QUEEN.
WHAT'S THE RAN RUCKUS ABOUT NOW?
YESSS!!
IF WE KICK KOTOBUKI'S BUTT AT THE MEISHO QUEEN CONTEST, WE'LL HAVE ALL THE GUYS HERE IN THE PALMS OF OUR HANDS!!
AN INGENIOUS IDEA JUST POPPED INTO MY HEAD, SISTERS!!
I'M TRYIN' TO SAY, THERE IS NO QUEEN CONTEST THIS YEAR!!
THERE! FINALLY GOT TO FINISH MY SENTENCE
WHAT, YOU HAGS?! BOOORING!!
KOTO-BUKI!! WE'VE GOT YOUR COM-PETITION, RIGHT HERE!!
BRIL-LIANT AS ALWAYS, RIKA !!

K-K-KISSING?!?
PRINCESS?!
HOLDING HIS PRINCESS ALOFT
30000 YEN?!
I'M IN!!!
ON THE AIR
BROADCASTING ROOM
...IS WHAT I SAID...
...BUT SURE ENOUGH, I ENDED UP HERE.
..SO I'LL JUST TAKE A LITTLE WALK AROUND THE GROUNDS...
I DON'T THINK THIS REALLY HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH ME..
WHAAT?!
WHAT ABOUT ALL THE TALENTS I PREPARED JUST FOR THIS, HUH?!
FOLKS, WE'RE STILL LOOKING FOR COUPLES TO PARTICIPATE IN MEISHO'S PRINCE AND PRINCESS RACE.
HOW'S IT SOUND, YOU ATHLETIC GUYS? DON'T YOU WANNA GIVE YOUR GAL A REALLY NICE PRESENT?!
the sho prince and princess race!!
STAGE
MORE SPECIFICALLY, WHOEVER MAKES IT FIRST THROUGH ALL OF THE CHALLENGES WE'VE GOT LINED UP WILL SNAG THIS TRAVEL GIFT CERTIFICATE WORTH 30,000 YEN!
AH... WELL, I'M SURE THEY'LL COME IN HANDY SOMEDAY
AND WE'LL ALSO TAKE A PHOTO OF OUR VALIANT PRINCE HOLDING HIS VICTORIOUS PRINCESS ALOFT AS THEY SHARE A KISS, A PHOTO THAT'LL DECORATE THE HALLS OF MEISHO FOR ONE YEAR!
WINNING COUPLE COMMEMORATIVE PHOTO STAGE

SHAKE SHAKE
YOU MUST'VE STAYED UP LATE LAST NIGHT.
YOUR EYES ARE A LITTLE PUFFY.
HE HAD TWO CANS OF COFFEE WITH HIM
...MEANING HE EXPECTED ME TO COME AND SEE HIM HERE...?
YEAH, RIGHT! QUIT FLATTERING YOURSELF!
GONG
OH, I'M FINE STUDYING FOR ENTRANCE EXAMS ISN'T TOO TOUGH.
IT'S JUST EVERYONE AROUND ME SAYS APPLYING TO A STATE SCHOOL IS FOOLISH WHEN I CAN GET INTO A PRIVATE GIRLS SCHOOL WITHOUT TAKING ANY EXAMS...
...BUT I WANT TO TEST MYSELF.
I TRIED TO HIDE IT WITH MAKEUP THIS MORNING BUT...
DON'T OVERDO THE STUDYING BIT.
HMPH.
SO YOU'RE GETTING A LOT OF FLAK FOR YOUR DECISION, HUH?

CREAK
WONDER IF OTOHATA-KUN IS IN HERE...
I'M ON BREAK RIGHT NOW.
WANNA COME UP?
RECORDING ROOM
H-HE'S NOT!
OTOHATA-KUN...!
OVER HERE.
DRINK?
SURE. THANK YOU.

...NOW YOU'VE GOT A GOAL AND THE WILL TO REACH IT.
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO SAY THIS RIGHT, BUT.
...COMPARED TO BEFORE, WHEN YOU DIDN'T HAVE ANY DIRECTION...
AND THEN...
...I'LL WAVE GOODBYE TO THE WEAK COWARD THAT I WAS UP UNTIL NOW...
WOMEN PUT ON GUYS' COLOGNE? WHAT THE HECK IS THAT?
IS THAT THE TRENDY THING TO DO THESE DAYS?
YOU SMELL LIKE...
...A BIG OCEAN...
...MAYBE I'LL BUY THE SAME BRAND OF COLOGNE.
...AND NEVER LOOK BACK AGAIN.


BECAUSE EVENTUALLY, IT'LL TURN INTO A TAILWIND...
...YOU'LL TELL ME, "IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT..."
...AND YOU'LL PUT YOUR HANDS ON MY BACK AND GIVE ME A PUSH.
AH, IT'LL BE FINE.
RIGHT NOW, IT FEELS LIKE THERE'S A STRONG HEADWIND, TRYING TO BLOW ME BACK...
...BUT I'M STILL GOING TO KEEP MOVING AHEAD.
YEAH... BUT...
...YOU CAN'T STAY IN THE SAME PLACE FOREVER, YOU KNOW?

ZZIK ZZIK ZZIK
VICTORY IS THE PROOF OF LOVE!!
IF I WIN AND COLLECT A KISS FROM RAN-PYON♡ RIGHT IN FRONT OF HIM... PERFECT!!
I HOPE OTO-CHI IS AROUND HERE SOME-WHERE WATCHING THIS!!
WHAT SHOULD I DO?!
..HAVING THE PHOTO OF IT ON DISPLAY AT OUR SCHOOL TILL GRADUATION? I'LL BE THE LAUGHING STOCK OF MEISHO!
UNHH... IF I WIN, I'D BE HAPPY TO KISS MAMI-RIN,♡ BUT..
SO SAW, MAN, SAW!!
WHUMP!!
WHUMP!!
I CAN'T STAND WATCHING THIS ANY-MORE!!!
OOOOH
A-HA! YOU COULDN'T HOLD BACK YOUR TRUE NATURE FOR LONG!!
THIS IS THE MAMI-RIN I KNOW!!
WELL, IT LOOKS LIKE TWO PRINCESSES HAVE "TAGGED IN" TO GIVE THEIR PRINCES A HELPING HAND!!
IT TAKES FOREVER FOR YOU TO CUT THROUGH A PIECE OF WOOD AND YOU CALL YOURSELF A MAN?!
?!?
READY... SET... GO!!
WOO WOO
AND WE'RE ABOUT READY TO CONTINUE WITH THE LOG-SAWING EVENT!
WE'RE ALREADY DOWN TO THREE TEAMS!
ZZIK ZZIK ZZIK
ERRR!
HAHAHA! YOU GUYS DON'T HAVE A CHANCE AGAINST AN OFFICER OF THE LAW!
ZZZT ZZZT ZZZT ZZZ
DASH
ADIOS!
FWAK
GET CUTTIN', TATSU-KICHI!! 10,000 EN IS AT STAKE!!
YUYA, WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?!
WOW, FOLKS! NUMBER FIVE, YAMATO KOTOBUKI, HAS SPLIT HIS LOG IN HALF!
OOOH

KRAKWHUD
IF THAT'S NOT THE POT CALLING THE KETTLE BLACK!! "YUYA, MAMI WANTS A CREPE!" MAKES ME WANNA HURL!!!
THAT WAS FIGHTING DIRTY, YOU SLEAZEBAG!! I WAS RIGHT ABOUT YOU THE FIRST TIME, KOTOBUKI!! YOU'RE MY ETERNAL ARCH-ENEMY!!
WHUMPP
BOTH PRINCESSES ARE DOWN!!
AH! PRINCESS HONDA IS FALLING... AH!!
SLIPPP

Spotlight: apologize again for spelling the freeland!

DISSECTION OF A BLOODBATH!!

THE NO CELL PHONE RULE!!

OH! MAIL FROM S-CHAN.

PU-RO-RI RI RI

One day before a dead-line...

FWAPP

WHAT THE --?!

STOP RIGHT THERE!!!

THAT'S WHAT YOU CALL "RUNNING AWAY FROM REALITY"

OWWW!!!

TUNK

ALWAYS GET DOCKED 5 POINTS BEFORE DEADLINE DOING MAIL GIVES ME PEACE OF MIND FOR A FEW MINUTES

DO YOU EVEN KNOW HOW MANY MINUTES YOU WASTE ON JUST ONE OF THOSE CLICK-CLICK-CLICKINGS (MAIL)?!

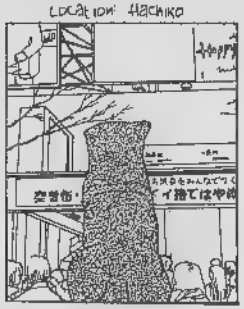
IF YOU'RE GOING TO SEND MAIL, AT LEAST FINISH UP FIVE PAGES FIRST!

->Continued in Bloodbath 2

I'M NAOKICHI, CUTE NAO-KICHI, AND I LOVE-LOVE AYA-AYA, LOVE ME TENDER...
CHURU-CHOOO, DOOO-WAAA!
BO-BON-BON-BON!
A-ONE, A-ONE, A-ONE, TWO, THREE, FOUR!

HIGH SCHOOL FRESHMAN DETECTIVE

LOCATION: HACHIKO



SAYO'S NOTES ON FOLLOWING MIHONA-CHI! PART FIVE!

Whaaa--?. I lost her completely but never give up. That's the iron rule of detectives everywhere! Hmm, they say that criminals return to the scene of the crime. Yes, that's it! I'll ambush her at the Hachiko exit. Aha there I knew she'd show up! And there she goes, shameless as usual, snapping photos of the Hachiko statue! I think I'll have to arrest her for the crime of acting suspicious!

Mm? It looks like she ran out of film. Ah, she ducked into the basement of the station to search for more. I have to chase her. (Crash) Waaugh (thump)... wanted to try making rice cakes before it came to this!

BLOODBATH 2

AND IF THINGS KEEP UP LIKE THIS MY MOM'S GONNA ENACT A "NO CELL PHONES ALLOWED" RULE! MMM MMM WHAT SHOULD DO? THINK BRAIN THINK!!
...IT WOULD MAKE ME LOOK REALLY BAD!!!
I'm a baby at heart, so whenever I get a phone call or email from my friends, it always comforts me a lot (Thank you friends.) But I never blew a deadline because I was preoccupied with my cell.
THAT'S IT!!
Then, after reaching my goal, I can set aside a certain amount of time to focus on returning friends' mail.
TAK TAK TAK TAK BEEP BEEP BEEP
SCRATCH SCRATCH SCRATCH SCRATCH SCRATCH
RRRR
I'll put my cell phone where I can't see it, in the next room! That way, I can focus on finishing my quota!!
Thanks to this system, I became a really fast typist.
SEEING MIHONA IN THE NEXT ROOM FURIOUSLY TYPING INTO HER PHONE IN ABSOLUTE SILENCE SHE REALLY WEIRD
Mom's testimony

That's all, folks!

FWUMP
LET US GO, NAO-KICHI!!
AYA, ABOUT CHRISTMAS EVE...
GOT IT!
NEXT!!
THIS CHEMICAL REACTION FORMULA IS N2 + 3H2 = 2NH3!!
ROAR
ESSENTIAL
State universities entrance exam questions
UWA!

WELL, IT'S ALMOST CHRISTMAS, LOVE-LOVE CHRISTMAS...
THIS IS BAD! NAOKICHI-KUN'S CONVINCED HIMSELF THAT AYA-PE'S THE "GIRL OF HIS DESTINY!"
MAYBE WE OUGHTA TELL HIM THAT AYA-PE-SENPAI AND OTOHATA-SAN'S TWO HEARTS ARE "HOT..."
...AND EVEN THOUGH IT'S COLD OUTSIDE, OUR TWO HEARTS ARE HOT-HOT-HOT-HOT!
"DESTINY AYA-AYA," BY NAOKI KUROI...THE LYRICS, THE COMPOSITION, THE ARRANGEMENT... ALL PERFECT!! AND NOW, WITHOUT FURTHER ADO, I'M GONNA ASK HER OUT FOR A CHRISTMAS DATE!!
WAA, WAA, WAA, WAA, WAA, WAA, WAA, WAA!!
HOW COULD IT NOT BE? SINCE YOU'RE THE GIRL OF MY DESTINY...
3-1
I KNOW. TOO HARD TO BEAR...
MM... BUT SEEING NAO-KICHI-KUN'S CREST-FALLEN FACE...

WELL, OTOHATA-KUN IS DJ'ING AT A CLUB EVENT AND I DON'T WANNA GET IN HIS WAY... ...I MEAN, OF COURSE I'D LIKE TO SEE HIM THAT NIGHT BUT...
YOU DON'T PLAN ON STUDYING CHRISTMAS EVE, DO YA?
...I BELIEVE IN MYSELF AND I'M GONNA DO MY BEST TO CATCH UP TO OTO-HATA-KUN'S LEVEL!
HE TOLD ME HIMSELF THAT I'LL BE FINE!
NO WORRIES THERE! I'M ENTHU-SIASTIC ...
IIROAHR
UWAA!!
SHE AUGHT FIRE AGAIN!
...I'VE ALREADY ACCEPTED THE FACT THAT THERE IS NO CHRIST-MAS FOR STUDENTS PREPARING FOR EXAMS!!
YEP...
LOOKS LIKE ANOTHER MANIFES-TATION OF OTO-HATA DISEASE ...
IIROAHR
CO_2 Na Mg Ca
FIRE-FIGHTING SQUAD, MOVE IN!
AGHH! THAT'S HOT!
AYA-AYA!♡ LISTEN TO MY LOVE SO...

FRESHMEN DETECTIVE FIREFIGHT-ING SQUAD, MOVE IN!!
ROGER!!
DA DA DA
SHE'S ON FIRE!! STAY BACK!!
IROAHRR
COMMENCE EXTIN-GUISHING!!
SORRY! RE-CENTLY, WHEN-EVER I GO INTO STUDY MODE, I GET LIKE THIS...
THE MISSION WAS A SUCCESS!
JUST BE CAREFUL YOU DON'T EXHAUST YOURSELF!
AYA... ARE YOU ALL RIGHT
?
BOY YOUR PERSONALITY'S CHANGING..
OTSU..

BOOM
FEAR NOT, SHIBUYA CLUB!! JUST LEAVE IT TO YOUR CHARISMATIC CLUB LEADER, RAN KOTOBUKI!!!
AH! OKAY, I GOT IT!
HEY, WORST COMES TO WORST, WE CAN PARTY HEARTY FOR FREE AT MIYASHITA PARK!
RAN-SENPAI, DO SOMETHING !!
IT'S DECEMBER, REMEMBER?!?
IT'LL BE FREEZING OUTSIDE!!
YAHH!
CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP
THAT'S OUR RAN-SENPAI! THE FESTIVAL QUEEN
HAH—AHA! AHHH, IT'LL WORK OUT, ONE WAY OR ANOTHER!
WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO? DIDN'T YOU JUST GET DONE TELLING ME YOU WERE BROKE AFTER BUYING THAT COAT?
!!
AND YOU HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN ABOUT YOUR SECOND ANNIVERSARY WITH TATSUKICHI-KUN. RIGHT?
LET'S MAIL EVERYONE AND TELL 'EM IT'S ON!
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHY WE WORRIED WHEN ONE CHAT WITH RAN-SENPAI SOLVED THE PROBLEM 1-2-3!
KYAA KYAA
WELL, THAT'S A LOAD OFF MY MIND.
RAN...!!

B1
OLYMPUS
EHHH, I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT... THOUGH STUDYING LIKE THAT, MY BRAIN WOULD'VE SPRUNG A LEAK BY NOW...
BUT AT LEAST SHE'S STUDYING ENTHUSIASTICALLY NOW AND WITH AN EYE ON THE FUTURE, SO LET'S SUPPORT HER!
AND THE THOUGHT OF HAVING TO SPEND CHRISTMAS EVE AT HOME ...TALK ABOUT A SILENT NIGHT! IT'S TOO SAD TO THINK ABOUT!!
...BUT OUR CLUB'S SO POOR, WE CAN'T AFFORD TO EVEN RENT AN EVENT SPACE!
WE WANNA HAVE A PARTY ON CHRISTMAS EVE...
MM? THE SHIBUYA CLUB! WHAT'S UP, GALS?
AH! RAN-SEN-PAI!

DIGITAL MIHONA-CHIN!

All my friends are talking about "Super Otonata!" Have all of you talked to Super Otonata yet? I got a score of 20% on "Super Otonata's popularity scale (LOL) One of my friends who scored 90% said, "It's kind of complicated." (LOL) Why don't you try to have a conversation with the dangerous, thrilling (lie) Super Otonata?

http://homepage2.nifty.com/happy-gals/index.htm

(MIX EDITOR NOTE: MIHONA PUJE ORIGINALLY WROTE THIS SEVERAL YEARS AGO. AT THE TIME OF OUR PUBLICATION, THIS SITE NO LONGER SEEMS TO BE ACTIVE.)

Say the site's been renovated, but actually, there are a number of corners that are still under construction. I'm s sorry D B-But I'll try my best to catch up on it ♡ If you haven't seen the site yet, though, check it out ♡ Super Otonata is waiting for you!

...AND PLAN TO FOB THAT OFF ON TATSUKICHI AS A PRESENT ?!
I FEEL SORRY FOR HIM!
I DON'T BELIEVE YOU! YOU GET THE FIRST THING THAT COMES TO MIND... A UFO CATCHER STUFFED ANIMAL...

THAT IS EASY! YOU ARE MY BOY-FRIEND!
I'M NOT ASKING YOU FOR MY OFFICIAL TITLE!!
I'M ASKING WHETHER YOU FEEL THE SAME WAY ABOUT ME...
...THAT I DO ABOUT YOU!
I DON'T LIKE BEING GIVEN THE THIRD DEGREE
WHAT, DON'T YOU HAVE ANY FAITH IN ME?

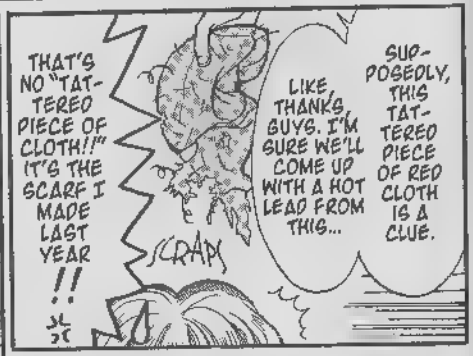
BYOOOOOOOO
WELL, WOMEN NEED MAKEUP, AND STUFF LIKE THAT COSTS MONEY! BUT GUYS, Y'KNOW .ANY-WAY, THIS TIME, JUST CUT ME SOME SLACK AND ACCEPT THIS! ALL RIGHT?!
I'M WORKIN' MY BUTT OFF AT THE RAMEN SHOP SO I CAN BUY YOU THAT CHRISTMAS LIMITED EDITION COSMETIC SET YOU WANTED, RAN-PYON.
I...DON'T KNOW HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT ME ANYMORE, RAN...
THERE YOU GO AGAIN I SWEAR, IT'S LIKE A YULE-TIDE TRADITION! EVERY TIME CHRISTMAS ROLLS AROUND, YOU GET THE BLUES!
HOLD IT! THAT'S NOT WHAT THIS IS ABOUT!
I'VE BEEN THINK-ING ABOUT THIS A LONG TIME! ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT YOU'VE REALLY GOT FEELINGS FOR ME!
ABOUT WHAT I AM TO YOU!

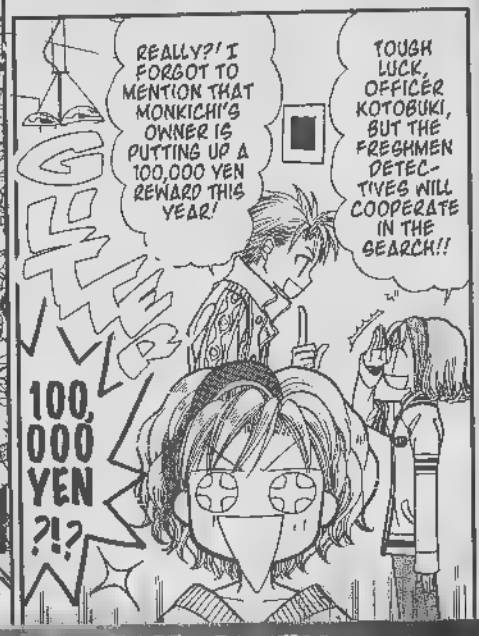
DASH!!
...I'M NOT GONNA SEE YOU FOR CHRISTMAS EVE THIS YEAR, RAN!
DON'T BOTHER CHASING AFTER ME
RAN, DID YOU HEAR THAT? HE WAS TALKING ABOUT CHEATING ON YOU!!
I THINK YOU'D BETTER CATCH UP TO HIM!
HA! HE DOES NOT HAVE THE BACK-BONE FOR IT!!
CHEAT?
I GOTTA CONCENTRATE ON WHAT'S REALLY IMPORTANT, LIKE THE SHIBUYA CLUB PAR-
SMACK
DAA!
I WISH SHE WOULD BE MORE HONEST ABOUT HOW SHE REALLY FEELS..
WHY THE HELL'D THEY PUT A LAMPPOST THERE ?!?

NO-BODY SAID ANY-THING ABOUT "FAITH !!"
SEE, THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT MAKES ME NERVOUS! SOON AS I GET TO THE POINT, YOU AVOID THE QUESTION!!
WELL, THIS IS ME! THIS IS HOW I ROLL!
ISN'T THAT WHY YOU FELL FOR ME?! ISN'T THAT WHY YOU ASKED ME OUT IN THE FIRST PLACE?!
IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, GO AHEAD AND LOOK FOR A NEW GIRLFRIEND, ONE THAT MAKES YOU FEEL MORE SECURE!!
RAN, YOU ARE OVER-STEP-PING!
ENOUGH.
SAYING EXACTLY WHAT I THINK IS MY CREDO!!
I KNOW SOME-ONE BACK IN MACHIDA WHO THINKS ONLY ABOUT ME...
WHO NEEDS ME RIGHT NOW... SO...

THE MONKEY'S NOT EVEN IN SHIBUYA ANYMORE, BUT WE'RE TOLD THERE'S A CHANCE IT'LL SHOW UP AGAIN ON CHRISTMAS EVE, SO EVERYBODY HAS TO PUT IN O.T. SEARCHING FOR THE DAMN THING!
AH! DON'T EAT THE MASATO FIGURINE!! UWAAA!
MUNCH MUNCH
OH YEAH... THAT DAMN MONKEY...

I'M GOING NEXT DOOR!!
THUD THUD THUD THUD THUD
THAT'S IT!! THAT'LL PAY FOR THE SHIBUYA CLUB'S PARTY!!
NEXT DOOR?!
?!


THAT'S NO "TATTERED PIECE OF CLOTH!" IT'S THE SCARF I MADE LAST YEAR!!
SCRAP
LIKE, THANKS, GUYS. I'M SURE WE'LL COME UP WITH A HOT LEAD FROM THIS...
SUPPOSEDLY, THIS TATTERED PIECE OF RED CLOTH IS A CLUE.


REALLY?! I FORGOT TO MENTION THAT MONKICHI'S OWNER IS PUTTING UP A 100,000 YEN REWARD THIS YEAR!
TOUGH LUCK, OFFICER KOTOBUKI, BUT THE FRESHMEN DETECTIVES WILL COOPERATE IN THE SEARCH!!
GLEE
100,000 YEN ?!?

UNTIL YOU TAKE THAT EXAM, YOUNG LADY, I'LL SEIZE EVERY OPPORTUNITY I HAVE TO PRAY FOR IT!!
DAD!! THIS IS CHRISTMAS, NOT THE STAR FESTIVAL!! YOU DON'T DECORATE THE TREE WITH WISHES!!
MAY RAN TAKE THE POLICE OFFICER EMPLOYMENT EXAMINATION NEXT YEAR, TAIZO KOTOBUKI
MAY RAN TAKE THE POLICE OFFICER EMPLOYMENT EXAMINATION NEXT YEAR.
THIS IS MY KING-SIZED CHRISTMAS TREE CAKE! ♡
SAYO, YOUR CAKES LOOK BETTER AND BETTER EVERY YEAR!

I'M HOME...
YAMATO, WHAT'S WRONG? WHAT'S THE NET FOR?
EVEN THE ♪ ORNAMENTS ON TOP ARE EDIBLE.
...HAS ESCAPED AGAIN!!!
WANTED
MONKICHI...

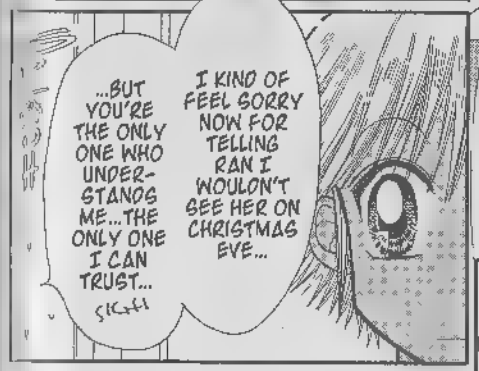
GO
ALL RIGHT, WHERE IS THE BEST PLACE TO START LOOKING?
YEAAH!!
WE'LL KEEP THE CHRISTMAS PEACE IN SHIBUYA! COME ON, LET'S MOVE OUT, FRESHMAN DETECTIVES!!
MM?
I THINK I WAS THE ONE WITH THE DUMB IDEA LETTING THEM HELP ME WITH THIS...
NICE TRY, THOUGH, TASUKE!!
THAT HURTS, RAN!!
WOOF! WOOF!
TASUKE, THAT IS NOT MONKICHI!
WOOF?
T-TASUKE, WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU? I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING!!

RAN...
THAT'S...
TASUKE!! YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE A POLICE DOG HERE!! COME ON, TOMORROW'S CHRISTMAS EVE!!
YAWN
FOR ANOTHER, HE'S NOT TRAINED FOR THAT
FOR ONE THING, HE'S NOT A POLICE DOG...
DUMB IDEAS?!
GRRR
WE'D NEVER BE ABLE TO KEEP THE PEACE IN SHIBUYA BY RELYING ON YOUR DUMB IDEAS!
.....
TASUKE, OUR NEIGHBOR'S DOG!!
WOW!!
OKAY, TASUKE! JUST LIKE A POLICE DOG, LOCK ON TO THE SMELL OF THIS SCARF, THEN GO LOOK FOR MONKICHI!

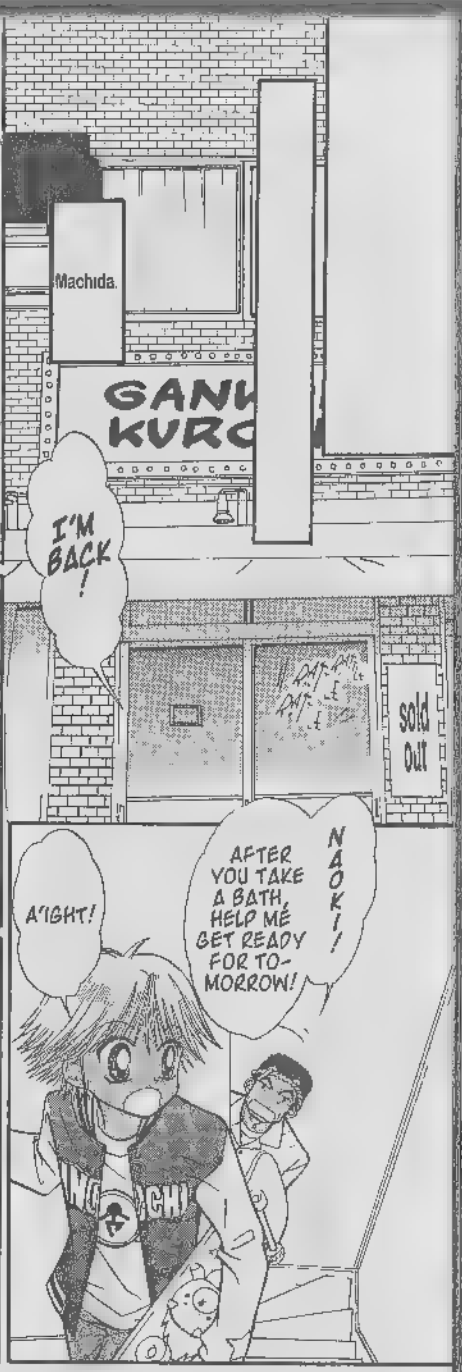
SPLISH
OOKII
(MMM, SOUNDS KIND OF EXCITING.)
...
OOKIKI, MONKI-CHI?
(WHAT DO YOU THINK?)

SHOCK!
ARE YOU ACTUALLY PLANNING TO OFF WITH A MONKEY?!?
NI-CHAN!!!
KA-CLA
.....

..MAYBE I'LL TRY CALLING HER TONIGHT..MMM, BUT I DUNNO IF SINGING A LOVE SONG OVER THE PHONE'D WORK...
SHUFFLE
SIGHHH ..STILL HAVEN'T HAD THE CHANCE TO ASK AYA-AYA OUT ON A DATE...


...BUT YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO UNDERSTANDS ME...THE ONLY ONE I CAN TRUST...
SIGH
I KIND OF FEEL SORRY NOW FOR TELLING RAN I WOULON'T SEE HER ON CHRISTMAS EVE...

I'M SURE IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE SOMEONE FIGURES OUT YOU'RE HOLED UP HERE..
..DROPPED IN UNEXPECTEDLY.. MAYBE WE SHOULD GO ON THE RUN TOGETHER..
I WAS TOUCHED YOU WENT TO ALL THAT TROUBLE TO FIND WHERE I LIVED...AND SURPRISED WHEN YOU
NII-CHAN...? WHAT'S HE DOIN' TALKING TO HIMSELF IN THE TUB?
SNEAK


Machida
I'M BACK!
sold out
A'IGHT!
AFTER YOU TAKE A BATH, HELP ME GET READY FOR TOMORROW!
NAOKI!

STARE
.....
NO! NO! NO!! I'VE GOTTA CONCENTRATE!!
I KNOW! I'LL JUST TURN OFF MY CELL PHONE!
AH! BUT WHAT IF OTOHATA-KUN CALLS?
OR SOMEBODY SENDS ME MAIL?
FRET FRET
AWAWA! OTOHATA-KUN!!
DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE DEE
AYA?
WHAT'RE YOU DOIN' TOMORROW?
CALM DOWN, AYA!
HELLO? OTOHATA-KUN?

ANYWAY, I CAN'T LET MY BRO GO THROUGH WITH IT!! MONKICHI BELONGS TO SOMEBODY ELSE AND MY CONSCIENCE AS A FRESHMAN DETECTIVE WON'T LET ME REST UNTIL HE'S RETURNED TO HIS RIGHTFUL OWNER!!
IT DOES SMELL A LITTLE LIKE MONKEY IN HERE
WAIT A SECOND!! TASUKE MUST'VE CHOMPED ONTO MY SHIRT 'CAUSE HE CAUGHT A WHIFF OF MONKICHI, WHO WAS SECRETLY COOPED UP AT OUR HOUSE!!
GASP
UM... WHAT WAS THAT FORMULA AGAIN...?
TALK ABOUT KILLING TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE!!
THIS WAY, SHIBUYA GETS TO KEEP THE PEACE AND I GET TO KEEP THE REWARD MONEY, WHICH I'LL USE TO BUY A BEYOOTIFUL RING FOR AYA-AYA THAT'LL MELT HER HEART!!
FLICK
FLICK

LISTEN UP, SHIBUYA CLUB!! IF WE FIND THAT MONKEY, WE'VE GOT A FAB PARTY WAITING FOR US!!
SO HAS EVERYBODY GOT THEIR BANANAS?!
YEAHH!!
December 24th
BUNN
MON-KICHI-CHAN!
BUNN
MONKEY WANT A BANANA ?
THEN LET THE SEARCH BEGIN!!
BUNN
Merry Christmas

TOMOR-ROW..? I- I WAS PLAN-NING ON STUDYING FOR EN-TRANCE EXAMS, BUT...
I BET YOU'RE ALMOST THROUGH THAT STUDY BOOK AND YOU COULD PROBABLY STAND A BIT OF FRESH AIR...
..SO I WAS THINK-ING, MY GIG DOESN'T START TILL NINE...
R- REALLY? WE CAN MEET?
DON'T BE A DOPE!
IF I DION'T WANNA MEET, I WOULON'T HAVE BOTHERED CALLING!
OKAY! OF COURSE! I'D LOVE TO! JUST HEARING THAT..
.MAKES ME ABLE TO CRANK UP MY POWER OF CONCENTRA-TION TO 11 TONIGHT!
HAH? I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS.
NEVER MIND NOTHING.
YOU'RE WEIRD, YOU KNOW THAT?

AFTERWORD

WOWWW, can't believe we make it all the way to volume 9 this fast! Appreciate it and am moved by your support. I know I always write the same thing here, but always want to remind myself of the feeling of appreciation I have for so many people, and to reserve this spot for that. I really want to thank my editor, Tomichi-sama, who remains steadfast even when the going gets tougher my mom, who helps me face and make deadline time after time with her wit and vigor, my supportive papa, grandma and big brother, my dear friends, who cheer me up when I'm down, my great voice acting friends, who give me strength, the folks at Studio Pierrot, who've done such a great job with the anime version of "Gals!", the people at TV Tokyo, who air the anime, Konami, which delivers fun Gals! game after game, TOMY, which has made lots of cute Gals! goods, everyone connected with "Gals!" and most important of all, all you readers, who cheer me on and support me month to month. To all of the above, I say thank you, thank you from the bottom of my heart. Well, everyone, until volume 10 !!! Ten? No, really? Mean, 10 is 10. Bring it on! I keep that fire in your heart burning!!

Mihona
2002. 2

...AND I KNOW GUYS, ESPECIALLY, GET JEALOUS OR WORRIED EASILY...

I CAN KINDA GET HOW HE'S NERVOUS... I MEAN, IT'S NOT LIKE ANYBODY CAN SEE FEELINGS...

THAT'S RIGHT!

BUT IT'S BECAUSE WE CAN'T SEE FEELINGS..

...THAT WE'VE GOTTA BELIEVE IN EACH OTHER.

AND IF THAT GOES, THEN... I GUESS IT'S TIME TO THROW IN THE TOWEL.

RAN...

WOOF!

(HUH?)

WHAT?! WHAT IS IT, TASUKE?

I-I DON'T KNOW THE LAST TIME I SAW RAN LOOK THIS SERIOUS...!!

THE CELLULAR CUSTOMER YOU'RE TRYING TO REACH IS EITHER OUT OF THE SERVICE AREA OR...

I'M HELPING YOU OUT HERE, SO QUIT COMPLAININ'!

PEE PO PA'

...EVERY SINGLE CHRISTMAS?

WHY DO YOU HAVE TO CAUSE AN UPROAR IN SHIBUYA...

RAN...? CAN'T YOU GET THROUGH TO TATSUKICHI-KUN?

.....

WELL, MAYBE HE AND I ARE LIKE THIS CELL PHONE SIGNAL...JUST NOT ABLE TO CONNECT ANYMORE...

...IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN STUFF, RIGHT?

I KNOW THE HEART...

HMPH. YOU ALWAYS HAVE THAT ON?
UH-HUH. EXCEPT WHEN IT DOESN'T MATCH THE CLOTHES I'M WEARING. THEN I CARRY IT IN THIS POUCH.
HERE IS YOUR PRESENT!
YEP! AND TOMORROW I CAN BE BACK TO STUDYING WITH A VENGEANCE!
DID YOU CLEAR THE COBWEBS OUT A LITTLE BIT?
A CHROME HEART PENDANT
I SEARCHED FOR ONE SIMILAR TO THE NECKLACE YOU GAVE ME!
OH THANKS.
WHAT IS IT?
WELL, AS USUAL, I CAME EMPTY-HANDED...
..BUT IF THERE'S SOMETHING YOU WANT ...?
AND ON THOSE DAYS, I'M AFRAID I'LL DROP IT, SO I KEEP THE POUCH ATTACHED TO MY ADDRESS BOOK!
.....OH YA?
WELL, I'D BETTER GET GOING 'RETTY SOON...
.I COULD STARE AT IT ALL NIGHT AND NOT GET BORED!
IT'S AS BEAUTIFUL AS LAST YEAR..
DASH
WOOF!
.MAYBE THIS WAY?)
ARE YOU CATCHING THE SCENT OF 100,000 SMACKERS?!
GOOD BOY, TASUKE!!
KEEP IT UP!!
...AS FAST AS LIGHTNING!!
RAN'S MOOD CAN CHANGE

I LOVE YOU... FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART.
WILL YOU KEEP GOING OUT WITH ME... THE WAY I AM NOW?
I MEAN, I'M SURE I'LL KEEP GOOFING UP AND...AND IRRITATING YOU WITH MY SOCIAL AWKWARDNESS...
DANGLING LIKE THIS IS ONLY MAKING ME MORE NERVOUS.
AH...
...UM... C...
COULD YOU ANSWER ME?

NOPE. I DON'T NEED ANY PRESENT.
YOU'VE ALREADY GIVEN ME MORE THAN YOU KNOW.
BUT I DO...
...HAVE ONE REQUEST.
LET ME CONFESS MY FEELINGS TO YOU ONE MORE TIME.

IF MY EYES WEREN'T PLAYING TRICKS ON ME, YOU WERE ABOUT TO KISS MY AYA-AYA !!
EXCUSE ME?
JUST WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING ?!
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE !!
UWAA!! WOE, WOE IS ME !!
GULP
WELL... SHE IS MY GIRL-FRIEND.

OOKIE?
POP
...
HAH?
WHAT ABOUT THE MONKEY ...?
UM... WHAT'S UP WITH THAT MOVING BAG?
I-I BROUGHT THE MONKEY HERE JUST FOR HER SAKE ...
JUMP

COME TO THINK OF IT... I MIGHT BE KINDA SOCIALLY AWKWARD MYSELF.
I CAN'T THINK OF ANY GOOD RESPONSE TO WHAT YOU SAID...
...SO IN LIEU OF THAT...
...WILL THIS DO?

I UNDERSTAND...YOUR MASTER'S PROBABLY LONELY WITHOUT YOU, SO YOU'RE GONNA GO HOME.
OOKIE OOKIE.
YOU'LL COME AGAIN NEXT YEAR...? OKAY...I'LL SEE YOU THEN.
THEN WHY'D HE RUN OFF IN THE FIRST PLACE?
CALM DOWN, CALM DOWN...AT LEAST HE WAS ONLY WITH A MONKEY...
ANY MORON WHO DOES THAT TO ME HAS GOTTA GO!!
I'M GONNA FORGET ABOUT HIM!!
OOKIE... OOKIE OOKIE.
MONKICHI, YOU WANNA GO ON A JOURNEY, JUST THE TWO OF US...?
ACTUALLY, I'M SUDDENLY FEELING REALLY LONELY. MAYBE MY BRO HAD THE RIGHT IDEA.
OKAY, LET'S GET A MOVE ON AND GET THIS MONKEY BACK TO HIS OWNER, SARUTA-SAN, WHERE HE BELONGS!!
YEAH...I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT...
CHEER UP, NAOKICHI!! WHAT KIND OF LOVE HUNTER ARE YOU IF YOU GET ALL BENT OUT OF SHAPE OVER THIS?!
...and to all a good night... except for an oblivious Tatsukichi ...
MONKICHI!! WHERE ARE YOU?!?
YAY! MERRY CHRIST-MAS!!!
WOO!
BLUSH
THE REWARD'S GONNA FUND AN ALL-NIGHT KARAOKE PARTY!! ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT, ALL-YOU-CAN-SING, ALL-YOU-CAN-DANCE!!
GALS! 9: The End

AH! THERE HE IS!
KLOK KLOK KLOK
WOO!
(I'M A GENIUS!)
ALL RIGHT, I GOTTA GET OVER TO THE CLUB.
I DIDN'T SEE ANY-THING.
I HATE GETTING SUCKED INTO THEIR MAYHEM.
OOKIE♪
HEH... GUESS HE DIGS ME MORE THAN MY BIG BRO...
YOU'RE STILL THE SAME ROTTEN LITTLE MONKEY YOU WERE LAST YEAR, HUH?!
HAH?!
TATSUKI WAS PLANNING TO RUN OFF WITH MONKICHI HERE...
OOKIE!
SLAP
YOW!
YOU DID IT, YOU GOT US TASU-KE! 100,000 YEN!!!
THE MONKEY?!?
HE CHOSE A MONKEY OVER ME FOR CHRISTMAS EVE?! IS HE A MORON OR WHAT?!?
GONG!!
DON'T TELL ME TATSU-KICHI-KUN WAS GOING TO TAKE ...?

THE GALS JET OFF TO HAWAII FOR ONE FINAL ADVENTURE...IN APRIL!

By Mihona Fujii. Be here for the jam-packed series finale! Can the communication breakdown between Ran and Tatsukichi ever be repaired? Will it take a miracle for Ran to graduate high school? If these weren't big enough problems, a stolen backpack and a scary accident combine to put all the Gals on edge. But then it's off to Hawaii for fun in the sun and a big surprise! Be here for the jam-packed series finale!

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My BROTHER'S LITTLE ROOM

SUPER OTOHATA DIGITAL VERSION

M Huhhhh?! Why's he barefoot?! Why's he looking up at the sky with those lonely-looking eyes?! Why, Super Otohata?! And he's lookin' a little chubby!! I mean, like this, nobody would know he was Super Otohata!! KyAHAHAHAHAHA!! Actually, when I think about it, I don't even know where the "super" in "Super Otohata" is!! He certainly is a man of mystery...!! To my bro, who drew this weird pic...I say you're the one who's super, man...

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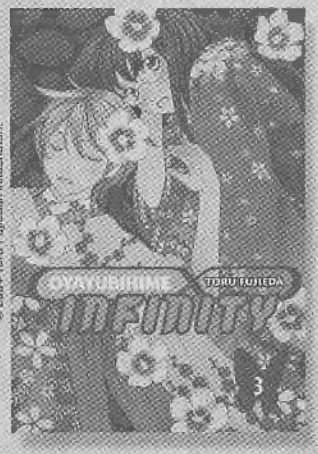

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